

# Dark Clouds over Tamil Nadu

(Cauvery Water, NEET, Jallikattu,  
Navodaya Schools and Fishermen  
Shootings)  
and the  
Rise of Tamil Nationalism

Thanjai Nalankilli

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Rise of Tamil Nationalism**

edited by  
**Thanjai Nalankilli**

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Numbers in parentheses indicate number of articles by the author in this volume.

## Table of Contents

### Preface

### **Cauvery River Water Dispute**

- [1. Cauvery River Water Dispute and Karnataka Massacres: Part 1 \(by Thanjai Nalankilli\)](#)
- [2. Cauvery River Water Dispute and Karnataka Massacres: Part 2 \(by Thanjai Nalankilli\)](#)
- [3. Indian Government's Betrayal of Tamil Nadu on the Cauvery River Water Dispute \(by Thanjai Nalankilli\)](#)
- [4. Nationalization of Cauvery River is not Good for Tamil Nadu \(by Thanjai Nalankilli\)](#)

### **National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for Medical Colleges**

- [5. NEET Examinations - India Takes over Medical Education: A Blow to Tamil Nadu and State Rights - Part I: What is NEET and What Happened in 2018? \(by Thanjai Nalankilli\)](#)
- [6. NEET Examinations - India Takes over Medical Education: A Blow to Tamil Nadu and State Rights - Part II: Mother India or Evil Stepmother India? \(by Thanjai Nalankilli\)](#)
- [7. NEET Examinations - India Takes over Medical Education: A Blow to Tamil Nadu and State Rights - Part III: Dark Days of Tamil Nadu \(by Thanjai Nalankilli\)](#)

### **Protests Against Jallikattu Ban Rocks Tamil Nadu**

- [8. India and Tamil Nadu Clash over Jallikattu, Tamil Identity, Tamil Pride and Tamil Nationalism: Part I - The Ancient Tamil Sport of Jallikattu Banned in India: Protests and Reversal \(by Arumugam Kumaraswamy and Thanjai Nalankilli\)](#)
- [9. India and Tamil Nadu Clash over Jallikattu, Tamil Identity, Tamil Pride and Tamil Nationalism: Part II - Tamil Identity, Tamil Pride, Tamil Nationalism, Tamil Grievances, Sense of Discrimination and Devolution of Power \(by Arumugam Kumaraswamy and Thanjai Nalankilli\)](#)

### **Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas**

- [10. Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas \(JNV\), Hindi Imposition and Madras High Court Ruling: Part I - First A Few Un-Publicized Facts About Navodaya Vidyalayas \(by Thanjai Nalankilli\)](#)
- [11. Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas \(JNV\), Hindi Imposition and Madras High Court Ruling \(India\): Part II - What Does the High Court Verdict Mean? \(by Thanjai Nalankilli\)](#)

[12. Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas \(JNV\), Hindi Imposition and Madras High Court Ruling \(India\): Part III - Final Discussion and Possible Solution \(by Thanjai Nalankilli\)](#)

**Tamil Nadu Fishermen Shootings**

[13. India's Broken Promises on Tamil Nadu Fishermen Shootings \(by Thanjai Nalankilli\)](#)

[List of More free E-Books from Us](#)

[Back to Table of Contents](#) or Scroll down for Preface

## Preface

People of Tamil Nadu expected things would change for the better once the British colonial rule ended and freedom dawned. British did leave the Indian subcontinent in August 1947. What dawned after the British rule was Hindis rule. Non-Hindi peoples of India were turned into second-class citizens are Hindi politicians became their masters. This book deals with the sad state of affairs of the non-Hindi State of Tamil Nadu in the post-1947 India.

If you are reading this book after 20 years or 30 years from now, some of the issues discussed here might have been rectified after much effort but newer dark clouds would have set in. We do not see daylight shining bright and clear over Tamil Nadu anytime soon.

[Back to Table of Contents](#) or Scroll down for Chapter 1

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## **Cauvery River Water Dispute**

Cauvery (Kaveri) river flows from Karnataka State to Tamil Nadu and irrigates many thousands and thousands of acres of farmland in Thanjavur, nearby districts and Pondycherry. It is the life source for paddy farmers of these areas. During British rule, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu (called Mysore and Madras Province at that time) each received its shares of water. Karnataka started withholding Tamil Nadu's share of water after the British era treaty ended. Tamil Nadu appealed to Indian Supreme Court and the Supreme Court ruled many times that Tamil Nadu has a legitimate right to its share of water but Indian government often delayed to implement an effective mechanism to enforce Supreme Court rulings. It is an Indian government betrayal of Tamil Nadu.

The next four articles relate to Cauvery water dispute.

[Back to Table of Contents](#) or Scroll down for the next chapter

# 1.

## **Cauvery River Water Dispute and Karnataka Massacres: Part 1**

Thanjai Nalankilli

[First Published: February 1998; Updated: February 2019]

### **OUTLINE (Part 1 of 2)**

1. Cauvery River Water Dispute
2. An Orgy of Violence
3. Tamils were Massacred in Karnataka, India did Nothing
4. Tamil Fishermen were Chased Out of Kachchateevu, India did Nothing
5. Tamil Farmers were Denied their Water, India did Nothing
6. What can Tamils do?

**Definitions:** Kannadigas - People whose mother tongue is Kannada. Tamils - People whose mother tongue is Tamil.

### **1. Cauvery River Water Dispute**

Cauvery river flows from Karnataka State to Tamil Nadu and irrigates many thousands and thousands of acres of farmland in Thanjavur (Tanjore or Thanjai), nearby districts and PondyCherry. It is the life source for Tamil farmers of these areas, especially those cultivating samba, kuruvai rice (paddy). Through a series of agreements dating back to 1892, Karnataka State has the responsibility to release specific amounts of water to Tamil Nadu every year. There was no problem when the British ruled the Indian subcontinent. After the British left, Karnataka started holding back the water that are legally Tamil Nadu's share. Tamil Nadu government took the matter all the way up to the Indian Supreme Court and a Cauvery Tribunal (Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal) was set up to decide how much water Karnataka should release to Tamil Nadu. Following a Supreme Court order, the tribunal instructed Karnataka to release 205 TMC feet of water to Tamil Nadu for the year beginning July 1, 1991. Karnataka State Chief Minister Bangarappa refused the instructions and organized a statewide strike on December 13, 1991 to protest. The strike turned into an orgy of violence against Tamils living in the state and continued for over two weeks. Tamils were beaten, tortured, raped and murdered; their houses were looted and burned. Fearing for their lives, Tamils fled the Karnataka State to Tamil Nadu State or the neighboring Kerala State with only what they can carry on a long walk to these safe havens.

### **2. An Orgy of Violence**

When many Tamil areas in the state capital Bengaluru (Bangalore) were in flames, Chief Minister Bangarappa was in Pune (Maharashtra State) attending a music function. Later, when a reporter asked him why he did not return to the state, he answered that there was

violence in only some Tamil areas. Anti-Tamil violence was not limited to Bengaluru. In fact, many gruesome incidents happened elsewhere in the state.

According to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, **90,000 Tamils fled Karnataka and they lost over three billion rupees worth of properties**. It was estimated that about 50 Tamils were murdered and many more beaten, stabbed, tortured or raped. Karnataka Chief Minister Bangarappa claimed that not a single Tamil was killed and that only 17700 Tamils fled the state. Even 17700 Tamils fleeing the state afraid for their lives is bad but the number is much higher. A correspondent of the British paper "Sunday Observer", who visited some of the refugee camps set up for the fleeing Tamils, wrote "the sheer number of Tamils in the refugee camps seem to disprove only 17700 people left Karnataka". Sunday Observer also described some eyewitness accounts. Tamil women particularly seemed to have been the target of the mobs. Instead of quoting Tamil newspapers, I provide the **following information from the British paper Sunday Observer**:

1.  
"Crimes against Tamils were committed in connivance with the state police and some local political leaders."
2.  
"Local politicians and police shared the looted properties."
3.  
"Numbers of Tamil women were killed after being gang raped. Some women were tortured and raped. Numbers of Tamil women were missing."
4.  
"Two dead bodies and another on the verge of death were found at one place. The dead bodies were that of the father and mother of the young girl whose breasts were chopped off and still barely alive."
5.  
"A 14-year old girl was raped and murdered in front of her father."
6.  
"A group of Tamils were traveling to Kerala State from Karnataka. A mob of Kannadigas stopped them and took away ten women and girls between the ages of 15 and 25. They were never seen again."

I want to point out that these beastly acts of violence, torture and murder were carried out by a small fraction of Kannadigas; police and politicians did not take effective measures to stop it. We gratefully acknowledge that ordinary Kannadigas gave shelter to Tamils in some areas. Our anger and frustration is primarily towards the Indian Government that did nothing to stop those beastly acts of violence, torture and murder of Karnataka Tamils.

While independent Indian and foreign news organizations reported the enormity of the situation, the **Indian-government run Television and Radio** showed its anti-Tamil bias by downplaying the situation as if nothing much was happening against Tamils in Karnataka. This biased reporting infuriated even Chief Minister Jayalalitha that she publicly complained about it.

### **3. Tamils were Massacred in Karnataka, India did Nothing**

There were reports that some leaders of the party ruling Karnataka State initiated the attacks. There were also many reports of police and local politicians sharing looted properties. Also were reports that police were doing nothing to stop the violence in most places. In view of this background, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa asked the Indian government to deploy the army to violence-struck areas. The Indian government refused. Note that this orgy of violence against Tamils was not a one-day event. It continued for well over two weeks. Had the army been deployed when Jayalalitha requested it, many Tamil lives could have been saved and so much pain and suffering could have been averted. But the Indian government seemed to have no concern for Tamil lives. The same disregard for the lives of its Tamil citizens is evident in the refusal of the Indian government to ask the India Navy to protect Tamil Nadu fishermen from shootings by the Sri Lankan Navy [briefly discussed in Section 4].

Tamils should remember that India spends approximately 300 billion rupees annually for the upkeep of the army. Approximately 30 billion rupees of this comes from Tamils. (This is not the total tax Tamils pay to the Indian government but our share of the military expenditures.) Paying 30 billion rupees every year for the upkeep of the army, we have every right to expect protection from the army when Tamils are butchered in Karnataka State.

But Hindi politicians, who control the Indian government irrespective of which party is in power or who is the Prime Minister, do not seem to think so. They think that all of Indian subcontinent belongs to them and the Indian army is their private security force to protect Hindi people and their interests; Tamils are not worth protecting.

Less than a dozen Hindi-speaking Uttar Pradeshis were killed by Sikh guerrillas one day a few years ago. Thousands of Indian troops were immediately rushed to protect the Uttar Pradeshis. Here, in Karnataka, scores of Tamils were murdered, mutilated and raped for over two weeks and billions of rupees worth of properties were looted and destroyed but the Indian government refused to send troops to protect the Tamils. Is it not step-motherly treatment?

### **4. Tamil Fishermen were Chased Out of Kachchativu, India did Nothing**

Take the case of Kachchativu. This is a small island between the Indian subcontinent and the Sri Lankan island. It belonged to India. Tamil Nadu fishermen often stop there to rest and dry their nets. The Indian government handed it over to Sri Lanka during the 1970s.

Tamil Nadu was not consulted even though Kachchativu is adjacent to Tamil Nadu and it were the Tamil Nadu fishermen who used the island during fishing trips. When Tamil Nadu fishermen raised their concerns, the Indian government told them that the agreement allows Tamil Nadu fishermen to use the Kachchativu Island as before even though it now belonged to Sri Lanka. However, now, the Sri Lankan Navy shoots at Tamil Nadu fishermen if they go anywhere near Kachchativu. Indian government refuses to protect our fishermen. All that would take is to send a Navy ship on patrol near Kachchativu couple of times a month and warn Sri Lanka that the Indian Navy would shoot and disable any Sri Lankan ship that shoots at Tamil Nadu fishermen. But the Indian government refuses to do that.

India handed over to Sri Lanka Tamil land (namely, Kachchativu island) used by Tamil Nadu fishermen for generations. But the same Indian government guards every square inch on its northern border jealously (even barren, unused and unusable land). In the **Kutch sector**, if a few Pakistani soldiers were to step a few yards across the boundary line, Indian troops shoot at them, reinforcements are rushed there and war planes fly over for additional protection. But alas, Tamil Nadu fishermen are shot and killed in areas they had fished for generations and the Indian government does nothing to protect them. Is it not step-motherly treatment?

When the Chinese claimed some barren land on the **Indo-Chinese borders** as theirs, India even refused to talk about it. China sent its troops into the land it claimed and India rushed its troops to counter it and lost thousands of soldiers in the war that ensued in 1962. See the difference. When it is land on the northern border that is relatively close to the Hindi belt, even if the land is barren and unused, India would not budge an inch and enters into costly wars. When it is land used by Tamil Nadu fishermen, India generously hands them over to Sri Lanka though the land is important to Tamil Nadu fishermen. Is it not step-motherly treatment?

I am not saying that India should not protect land on its northern borders. What I am saying is protect the land and sea important to Tamil Nadu and used by Tamil Nadu fishermen with the same vigilance and vigor as you protect land near the northern borders. After all, we the Tamils foot army's bill equally and we have a right to expect protection from the Indian army when needed. But we are not getting it [Reference 1].

## **5. Tamil Farmers were Denied their Water, India did Nothing**

Take another example - The Cauvery water dispute. During the British rule they made an equitable water sharing agreement between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and enforced it. Then our British rulers left and Hindi politicians became our masters from 1947. Karnataka started to renege on the agreement little by little. Chief ministers of Tamil Nadu did everything they could to get our share of the water because Tamil Nadu has a legal right to part of Cauvery waters and that water is the lifeblood of vast areas of farmland in Thanjavur and nearby districts. They pleaded with Karnataka chief ministers; no effect. Submitted our claim to the Cauvery Water Tribunal; it ruled in TamilNadu's favor. Karnataka refused to obey the ruling. We sued in the Indian Supreme Court; the

court ruled in our favor. Karnataka refused to obey. We pleaded with successive Indian governments to enforce the rulings of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the Supreme Court. They would not.

The Indian government does not care that Tamil crops are dying for lack of water. It does not care that Tamil farmers are going hungry. It does not care that Tamil farmers' families are vanquishing. If it were Hindi-speaking Uttar Pradesh or Madya Pradesh that were denied their rightful share of water, if it were Hindi states' crops that were dying, if it were Hindi farmers that were going hungry, if it were Hindi farmers' families that were vanquishing, then it would have been a different ball game. Indian Prime Minister would have made sure that the Hindi farmers get their rightful share of water from the neighboring state. If the neighboring state were to refuse the Water Tribunal or Supreme Court rulings, the Indian Prime Minister would have surely dismissed the state government on the grounds that it was not obeying the law. But here, in our case, no action was taken against the Karnataka government because the people on the receiving end are Tamil farmers, because the people whose livelihood is denied are Tamil farmers, because the people who are going hungry are Tamil farmers and their families. Tamils do not mean much to the Indian government. Tamils count very little to the Indian government.

## **6. What can Tamils do?**

Put all these things together. Karnataka refuses to release Tamil Nadu's share of Cauvery water, disobeying the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the Indian Supreme Court. Indian government would not enforce the law. Tamils in Karnataka are massacred for over two weeks. India refused to send the army to protect them. Kachativu Island that belonged to India and used by Tamil fishermen was handed over to Sri Lanka without consulting the Tamil Nadu government and against the protests of Tamil Nadu fishermen. Sri Lankan Navy shoots at Tamil Nadu fishermen going near Kachativu in spite of its earlier promise that Tamil Nadu fishermen could use the island as before. Indian government refused to protect the Tamil fishermen. Seeing that India is not protecting the Tamil fishermen near Kachativu, Sri Lankan Navy now shoots and kills Tamil Nadu fishermen in international waters also. Indian government refuses to protect the fishermen. As of now, over 120 Tamil Nadu fishermen have been killed, many more injured and millions of rupees worth of boats damaged or destroyed by the Sri Lankan Navy. These boats are the very means of fishermen's livelihood.

Under these circumstances what can Tamils do? Take it lying down? Murmur that we cannot do much about it and bear with it?

"Cauvery River Water Dispute and Karnataka Massacres: Part 2" continues in the next chapter.

## **Reference**

1. "Tamil Nadu Fishermen Killings" by Usha Ramanathan, E-book available free on the Internet.

[Back to Table of Contents](#) or Scroll down for the next chapter

## 2.

# Cauvery River Water Dispute and Karnataka Massacres: Part 2

Thanjai Nalankilli

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**OUTLINE (Part 2 of 2):** Part 1 is the preceding chapter.

7. Obligations of the Indian Government
8. Economic Plunder of Tamil Nadu
9. Reaction to Indian Government's Failure to Meets its Obligations

**Definitions:** Kannadigas - People whose mother tongue is Kannada. Tamils - People whose mother tongue is Tamil.

## 7. Obligations of the Indian Government

Because Tamil Nadu is now a part of India and thus people of Tamil Nadu are citizens of India, there are responsibilities and obligations on both the people of Tamil Nadu and the Indian government. On their part, the people should pay their taxes and obey the laws. In return, Indian government's obligations are:

- 1) Protect Tamil Nadu's economic interests (for example, assure that Tamil Nadu gets its share of Cauvery water as ordered by Supreme Court and tribunals, Tamil fishermen's right to fish in international waters between India and Sri Lanka).
- 2) Assure that Karnataka Tamils can live and work without fear in Karnataka (in the same way Tamil Nadu Kannadigas can live safely in Tamil Nadu); same for other states too.
- 3) Give Tamil Nadu its share of taxes Indian government collects from Tamil Nadu. There should be no discrimination between states.

Indian government has definitely not done 1 and 2 above [see Part 1 of this article (preceding chapter) for details]. Is the Indian Government giving Tamil Nadu its share of taxes back from the taxes it collects in Tamil Nadu? Let us delve into it briefly.

## 8. Economic Plunder of Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu is economically discriminated by the Indian government when compared to Hindi states. **For every 100 Rupees Indian government collects in taxes from Tamil Nadu, only 40 Rupees is given back to Tamil Nadu in the form of financial grants, central government projects, etc. Now compare it to the Hindi state of Uttar Pradesh. For every 100 Rupees Indian government collects in taxes from Uttar**

**Pradesh, 176 Rupees is given to Uttar Pradesh in the form of financial grants, central government projects, etc.** [Reference 1]. This is nothing but economic plunder of Tamil Nadu. Other South Indian states also are economically discriminated similarly [Reference 1].

To sum it up, Indian Government is not meeting any of its 3 obligations listed in Section 7, but it takes thousands of crores of Rupees out of Tamil Nadu and transfers large amounts of it to primarily Hindi states. (1 crore = 10 million)

## **9. Reaction to Indian Government's Failure to Meets its Obligations**

Successive Tamil Nadu governments have raised these concerns to the Indian government and things are getting worse not better. Tamil Nadu electorate has elected Dravidian parties (Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK)) to form the Tamil Nadu state government again and again since 1967. DMK demanded independence for Tamil Nadu (or Dravida Nadu) in the 1940s, 50s and 60s, until it gave up the demand in 1963. AIADMK split from DMK after 1963 but its founder M. G. Ramachandran and another top leader Nedunjchezhian were senior leaders in DMK in the 1940s, 50s and 60s. DMK gave up the "independence demand" after the 16-th Amendment to the Indian Constitution passed in 1963, prohibiting parties and individuals demanding independence from contesting elections. But DMK still demanded equitable sharing of central government tax revenues as well as due protection for Tamils. These demands were taken up by AIADMK when it split from DMK. Both the DMK and AIADMK governments have repeatedly spoken up for the rights of Tamil people and brought it to the attention of the Indian government. By voting these two Dravidian parties to power again and again since 1967, the people of Tamil Nadu have spoken. But our requests, pleadings and demands fall into deaf ears of the Indian government controlled by Hindi politicians.

What can Tamil Nadu do? If the Indian Government does not change its attitude, future of Tamil Nadu looks bleak.

## **REFERENCE**

1. "The News Minute: 14 July 2016" [  
<http://web.archive.org/web/20160715145421/http://www.thenewsminute.com/article/united-states-south-india-can-southern-collective-get-us-better-deal-delhi-46501> ]

[Back to Table of Contents](#) or Scroll down for the next chapter

### 3.

## **Indian Government's Betrayal of Tamil Nadu on the Cauvery River Water Dispute**

Thanjai Nalankilli

[First Published: November 2002]

### **Abbreviations**

CMC - Cauvery Monitoring Committee

CRA - Cauvery River Authority

CWDT - Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal

tmcft - thousand million cubic feet

Cauvery River water dispute started between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in the early 1970s. Tamil Nadu Government asked the Indian Government to form a tribunal to resolve the dispute. Indian Government refused. So the then Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi filed a lawsuit with the Indian Supreme Court to form the tribunal. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi interfered and made Tamil Nadu withdraw the suit. Had the suit proceeded and a tribunal was formed and the Indian Government implemented the verdict of the tribunal, the issue would have been resolved many years ago and Tamil Nadu farmers would not be suffering these many years. It was Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's interference that scuttled it.

The dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu continued and Tamil Nadu farmers suffered (because of the Prime Minister's interference in 1971). Since the government was doing little, in 1986, a Tamil Nadu Farmers Union filed a lawsuit with the Indian Supreme Court, requesting the formation of a tribunal to resolve the dispute. The then Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. G. Ramachandran joined the union's suit later that year. The Supreme Court heard their petition and ordered the formation of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) in 1990.

The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, headed by Justice N. P. Singh, passed an interim order in June 1991, directing Karnataka to release 205 tmcft (thousand million cubic feet) of water to Tamil Nadu every year. Karnataka refused. Again the Supreme Court came to Tamil Nadu's rescue. It upheld the tribunal's interim order, and asked Karnataka to release the water. What was Karnataka's reaction? Mobs of Kannadigas, with the active connivance of some police officials and politicians, went on a rampage against Tamil speakers living in the state. (Kannadigas - People whose mother tongue is Kannada, the dominant language of Karnataka.) According to independent reports, dozens of Tamil women were raped, tortured and sometimes murdered. About 50 Tamil men, women and children were brutally murdered. 90,000 Tamils fled Karnataka and they lost over three billion rupees worth of properties [Chapters 1 and 2]. In spite of pleadings from Tamil leaders, Indian Government refused to send the army to protect them.

In spite of the Supreme Court ruling in 1991, Karnataka refused to implement Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's interim order of 1991. Karnataka also disobeyed the tribunal's April 1992 and December 1995 interim orders. Indian Government did not step in to enforce these orders. Since Karnataka was refusing to implement the tribunal's interim order and the Indian Government was not enforcing the interim order, Tamil Nadu appealed to the Supreme Court in 1996. The Supreme Court asked the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) to look into it. CWDT asked Karnataka to release 11 tmcft of water but Karnataka refused. Indian Government did nothing to enforce the order. Tamil Nadu complained to the Supreme Court and it asked the then Indian Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao to act. The Prime Minister asked Karnataka to release just 6 tmcft of water, thus **slashing tribunal's order by about half**. Karnataka obeyed the Prime Minister's order.

Karnataka refused to release water in the following year. Tamil Nadu went to the Supreme Court again in 1997 requesting the court to direct Karnataka to implement the tribunal's orders. The Indian Government (which did not do anything to get the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's interim orders implemented) interfered in the court case. It sent its top lawyer Attorney-General Soli Sorabjee to the Supreme Court. He asked the Supreme Court to suspend its hearings because the Indian government had devised a scheme to implement the award. The Supreme Court suspended the hearing. Thus, **once again, justice for TamilNadu was postponed because of Indian Government interference**. (NOTE: We want to point out here that the Indian Government did not do anything effective to implement the interim order from 1991 to 1997. Now that Tamil Nadu had taken the matter to the court, it interfered to prevent the court from directing Karnataka to implement the interim order. We remind you that Indian Government did the same thing in 1971 to prevent the Supreme Court issuing a verdict on the formation of the tribunal. India Government did not want Tamil Nadu get a fair, just deal (which the Supreme Court was expected to issue based on legal merits)).

What was the Indian Government scheme that it promised to the Supreme Court? Indian Government constituted the Cauvery River Authority (CRA) in August 1998. Cauvery River Authority is chaired by the Prime Minister of India, with the Chief Ministers of the four riparian states (Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry) as members. Its role is to come up with a water sharing arrangement between the four states. It was assisted by the Cauvery Monitoring Committee (CWC). Decisions were to be made by the CRA and not by the CWC. CRA was ineffective in coming up with a water sharing arrangement. In February 2002, Tamil Nadu again asked the Supreme Court to order Karnataka to release water per Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's interim orders. **Indian Government interfered again** and filed an affidavit supporting Karnataka and seeking dismissal of Tamil Nadu's suit. Can we expect a fair deal from the Indian Government if Cauvery River is nationalized and the Indian Government becomes the sole arbiter of who gets how much water?

In June 2002 Tamil Nadu filed a lawsuit again with the Supreme Court pleading that it direct the Indian Government to ensure that Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's orders

are implemented. Supreme Court ordered that the Cauvery Monitoring Committee (CWC) make a recommendation on releasing water to Tamil Nadu. CWC met on August 9, 2002 and recommended that "Karnataka may release water to Tamil Nadu in accordance with the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal award of April 3, 1992 on pro-rata basis keeping in view the distress situation". Look at the recommendation. It does not mean anything. It does not say how much water should be released. The only reason for the August 9 meeting of the Monitoring Committee seems to be just to satisfy the Supreme Court order in paper but not in spirit. What is the purpose of meeting if no specific recommendation is to be made? Karnataka did not release any water saying that the Monitoring Committee did not specify how much water is to be released.

Cauvery River Authority (CRA) met on August 27, 2002. By then, Tamil Nadu farmers in the Cauvery Delta were in a dire state, with crops dying. CRA did not ask Karnataka to immediately release the water in order to save the crops. Instead CRA decided to meet again around September 21st to make a decision. That meant Tamil Nadu would not be getting any water for another three weeks thus ruining the samba and kuruvai rice (paddy) crops in the Cauvery Delta. An angry Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Ms. Jayalalithaa Jeyaram walked out of the CRA meeting. We have heard the saying that **Roman Emperor Nero** played fiddle even as Rome burned. Here Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee was taking his sweet time to convene the CRA again even as samba and kuruvai rice crops (paddy crops) were dying in Tamil Nadu, bringing gloom and doom to the livelihood of Tamil Nadu farmers.

Chief Minister Jeyalalithaa knew that waiting until September 21st would ruin Tamil Nadu farmers. She approached the Indian Supreme Court yet again. On September 3, the Supreme Court asked Karnataka to release 1.25 tmcft (thousand million cubic feet) of water everyday to Tamil Nadu until the Cauvery River Authority makes a decision. This would save samba and kuruvai rice crops until the CRA meets and makes a decision. While the **Indian Prime Minister decided to leave Tamil Nadu farmers** "dry to die", the Indian Supreme Court gave some interim relief so they may save their crops because law was on Tamil Nadu's side. Supreme Court said, "we feel that it is appropriate that some interim arrangements are to be made (until the CRA makes a decision)".

What happened next **tells a lot about Indian Government attitude** towards Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu pleaded with the Indian Government on August 27, 2002 that it convene the Cauvery River Authority soon to make a decision because Tamil Nadu paddy crops were dying. Indian Government said, "No, CRA will meet only around the 21st of September". Now, on September 3, the Supreme Court had ordered Karnataka to release 1.25 tmcft of water everyday until CRA makes a decision. Karnataka did not want to release the water. Only way to stop releasing the water until September 21 and at the same time not disobey the court was to convene the CRA immediately. It asked the Indian Government to do so. The Indian Government which refused to convene CRA on an urgent basis in spite of Tamil Nadu pleading with it, now rushed to convene the CRA. "Rush" is the correct phrase. Within 23 hours of the Supreme Court order in favor of Tamil Nadu, Indian Prime Minister decided to convene the CRA. The Cauvery River Authority met on September 8, not around September 21 as originally scheduled, because

Karnataka wanted it so. The Cauvery River Authority (CRA) decided to slash the Supreme Court order of 1.25 tmcft of water everyday to 0.8 tmcft everyday (less than two-third of what the Supreme Court ordered). Again, we see the Indian Government doing everything to help Karnataka at the expense of Tamil Nadu farmers.

Karnataka refused to release even the 0.8 tmcft of water and the Indian Government did absolutely nothing. Tamil Nadu went to the Supreme Court yet again. Only a threat of contempt of court on the Karnataka Chief Minister forced Karnataka to release the water.

Going through the above chronology of events **we find a definite pattern**. Karnataka refuses to release water to Tamil Nadu (water that is legitimately due to Tamil Nadu). Indian Government stays aloof and does nothing. Tamil Nadu goes to the Supreme Court. Many times, Indian Government enters and tries to get the court case dropped. If the case is dropped, Indian Government does nothing effective to get Karnataka release the water to Tamil Nadu. If the case is not dropped, the Supreme Court rules in favor of Tamil Nadu **EVERY TIME**. (This shows the legitimacy of Tamil Nadu's position.) Then the Indian Government comes in and reduces the amount of water the Supreme Court ordered Karnataka to release. In summary, Tamil Nadu never got a fair deal from the Indian Government irrespective of which political party is ruling India and who is the Prime Minister. But for the Supreme Court, Tamil Nadu would never have received reasonable quantities of water from Karnataka.

If Cauvery River is nationalized, Indian Government will make the decision as to who gets how much water and when. Given what had happened in all these years from the 1970s to today, can Tamil Nadu really expect that it would get its fair share of water from the Indian Government? In all these years it has always been the Supreme Court that came to the rescue of Tamil Nadu (because the law is on its side). If Cauvery is nationalized, the Supreme Court cannot interfere in Indian Government decisions.

[Back to Table of Contents](#) or Scroll down for the next chapter

## 4.

### **Nationalization of Cauvery River is not good for Tamil Nadu**

Thanjai Nalankilli

[First Published: December 2002]

#### **Abbreviations**

CMC - Cauvery Monitoring Committee

CRA - Cauvery River Authority

CWDT - Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal

tmcft - thousand million cubic feet

**Cauvery River** flows through four states (to be precise, three states and a union territory), namely, Karnataka State, Kerala State, Tamil Nadu State and Pondicherry Union Territory. Sharing the river water equitably has become a contentious issue between these four riparian states, especially between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The upper riparian state of Karnataka thinks that the water belongs to them and refuses to allow water to flow to the lower riparian states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, except when there is heavy rain and none of the states really need the water. Farmers in the Cauvery Delta (Thanjavur (Tanjore or Thanjai), nearby districts and Pondicherry) have used Cauvery River water for samba and kuruvai rice (paddy) cultivation for over two millennia. Karnataka's refusal to share the water equitably has led to severe hardship to Tamil Nadu farmers. Tamil Nadu had to go to the Indian Supreme Court several times to get its rightful share of water.

Under these circumstances, some well-meaning Tamil leaders, who genuinely care about Tamil Nadu farmers, are asking the Indian Government to nationalize the River so that it would come directly under the control of the Indian Government. Right now the upper riparian state of Karnataka thinks that Cauvery water belongs to it and so it can decide whether or not to release water to the three lower riparian states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. The three lower riparian states believe that Cauvery River belongs to all four riparian states and the water should be shared equitably. In spite of Karnataka's stand and arguments to the contrary, the Indian Supreme Court supports the view that the river belongs to all four riparian states.

What will happen if the Indian Government were to nationalize Cauvery River? Cauvery water would not belong to any of the four riparian states but would belong to the Indian Government. It can distribute the water in anyway it chooses. Supreme Court cannot tell it what to do. Currently Tamil Nadu is able to take the matter with the Supreme Court and get justice every time. If the Indian Government nationalizes Cauvery River, then the Supreme Court would have no authority to overrule Indian Government decisions whether they are fair or not.

Can TamilNad expect the Indian Government to be fair to it in distributing Cauvery water? One can reasonably predict the future by studying the past. Has the Indian Government been fair to Tamil Nadu in the past? No, absolutely not. Year after year, at every stage, Indian Government had consistently been unfair to Tamil Nadu in the Cauvery River water issue. Irrespective of which political party was ruling India and who the Prime Minister was, the Indian Government had consistently been unfair to Tamil Nadu on the Cauvery issue. From Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of the Congress Party, when Cauvery issue raised its head in 1971, to the current Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), there have been about half-a-dozen Prime Ministers belonging to various political parties and coalitions of parties. **All through these years Indian Government's decisions have always been against the interest of Tamil Nadu.** In each instance it was the Indian Supreme Court that came to Tamil Nadu's rescue (see Chapter 3). Given this background, how can we expect that Tamil Nadu would receive its fair share of Cavery water if it is nationalized and the Indian Government becomes the sole arbiter of the distribution Cauvery water? At least now Tamil Nadu can go to the Supreme Court for justice but if nationalized that door is shut to Tamil Nadu once and forever. So nationalization of Cauvery River is not in the interest of TamilNadu.

(Please note that linking Ganges and Cauvery Rivers is a different matter. The author had not studied the proposal and so cannot comment on it now.)

[Back to Table of Contents](#) or Scroll down for the next chapter

## **National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for Medical Colleges**

Medical education is important to any country or state. Tamil Nadu used to run the medical colleges in the state. Most graduating students served in the state as doctors in hospitals or private practice. Tamil Nadu had one of the best healthcare systems among Indian states. Hindi states had amongst the worst healthcare system. Yet the Hindi politicians who control the Indian government decided to centralize medical college admission through a centralized examination called National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET). Tamil Nadu State government as well as most opposition parties opposed NEET. Yet Indian government is running NEET examinations and creating numerous problems to Tamil Nadu students. Indian government should stop meddling in our educational systems. Let the Hindi politicians reform the educational systems in their Hindi states; we do not want their interference in our affairs.

The following 3 articles discuss what happened in 2018, the hardships Tamil Nadu students had to go through and the total indifference of the Indian government like a stepmother. Are we the stepchildren to Mother India (Bharat Mata)?

[Back to Table of Contents](#) or Scroll down for the next chapter

## 5.

# **NEET Examinations - India Takes over Medical Education: A Blow to Tamil Nadu and State Rights**

## **Part I: What is NEET and What Happened in 2018?**

Thanjai Nalankilli

[First Published: June 2018]

### **OUTLINE (Part 1 of 3)**

#### **FOREWARD**

1. Introduction
2. What is NEET and Why Tamil Nadu Opposes it?
3. Medical College Seats Stolen from Tamil Nadu
4. Outrage in NEET-2018.
5. Indian Government Reaction to the 2018 Problem
6. Tamil Nadu Government Action
7. Help from Private Individuals and Organizations
8. A Special Thanks to the People, Government Officials and Chief Minister of Kerala
9. Indian Railways and its Meager Help

#### **ABBREVIATIONS**

CBSE - Central Board of Secondary Education

IAS - Indian Administrative Services

NEET - National Eligibility cum Entrance Test

#### **FOREWORD**

Education used to be solely under the control of state governments. Then Indian Parliament brought it under the dual control of central government and state government, with the central government making all decisions even if state government opposes those decisions. Medical colleges used to be totally under the control of state governments. Decisions on entrance examinations and admissions were made by state governments. Tamil Nadu State had one of the top medical education systems in India. This resulted in better health care for the state people compared to Hindi states. Yet Indian government interfered and set up national entrance examinations called "National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET)". It is causing unnecessary hardships to Tamil Nadu students. Only ones benefiting from this scheme are Hindi states that have less medical colleges and lower quality of medical education. We do not mind the central government offering entrance examinations in states that welcome it. Do not interfere in states like Tamil Nadu that have stated that they do not want NEET examinations. Indian government intrusion into medical college admissions is the subject of this 3-parts article.

Our position is that education should be solely under the control of state governments. Devolve education BACK TO state governments. Indian government intrusion benefits the Hindi states and harms most non-Hindi states.

## **1. Introduction**

National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for medical and dental college admission, disabling problems associated with it to Tamil Nadu students in 2018 and Indian government's callous, discriminatory attitude and actions are symptoms of a devastating disease that has invaded the body of Tamil Nadu. This disease needs to be rooted out even if it would be hard and painful in order to protect the very future and prosperity of future generations of Tamil Nadu.

NEET is only a symptom; the underlying disease is the total control the Indian government, and through it the Hindi belt politicians, have over the future of the people of Tamil Nadu. Indian government does not act as the benevolent parent but as an evil stepmother. Unless Tamil Nadu stops this evil stepmother, and charts its own future, the future is dark and gloomy for the people of Tamil Nadu.

## **2. What is NEET and Why Tamil Nadu Opposes it?**

Admission to government medical colleges in Tamil Nadu used to be by the Tamil Nadu State government on the basis of grades in the statewide Class 12 examination. This system, in use for several decades, worked well. Most students from Tamil Nadu went to medical colleges in Tamil Nadu, most of them served in Tamil Nadu, and Tamil Nadu had one of the best healthcare systems in India.

Then the Indian government decided that admissions should be based on an all-India examination called National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET). Tamil Nadu opposed it. Tamil Nadu State legislative assembly voted unanimously on February 1, 2017 against NEET. Indian government did not respect the unanimous democratic voice of the state and forced NEET on Tamil Nadu. This article is not about the reasons why Tamil Nadu government, most politicians, doctors and students of Tamil Nadu opposed NEET. There was not much Tamil Nadu can do about NEET. It seems Indian constitution gives Indian government the power to impose NEET and such all-India examinations even if they are detrimental to the future of our children and the state overwhelmingly opposes it. We are resigned to this fate, as long as we are part of India.

This article is about the hardships thousands of Tamil Nadu students went through in 2018 either due to vindictiveness or ineptitude of the Indian government to hold NEET and other such examinations in Tamil Nadu. The most infuriating is the callous, indifferent and discriminatory manner in which Indian government addressed (or not addressed) these hardships. As we said in Section 1, 2018 NEET is just a symptom of the underlying disease of Hindi politicians ruling and dictating our future from a thousand miles away in the north, with total indifference, callousness and discrimination towards the welfare of the people of Tamil Nadu.

### **3. Medical College Seats Stolen from Tamil Nadu**

Although this article is about the 2018 NEET, we wish to include the following related information in this article before discussing 2018 NEET.

One feature of NEET seat allocations is that 15% of the seats in state medical colleges are given to out-of-state students. This benefits states with less medical colleges; they gain medical college seats and states with more colleges lose seats. For example it would benefit the Hindi state of Uttar Pradesh with 14 government medical colleges (1849 seats) at the expense of Tamil Nadu with 22 government colleges (2810 Seats). This is one reason Indian government, dominated by Hindi politicians, insists on Tamil Nadu and other southern states accept NEET.

Why should Tamil Nadu and other southern states hand over much sought medical seats to Hindi states? We spend our state monies to build and operate these colleges. If the Hindi states squander their money on some other things ignoring education, why is it up to the better-managed states to hand over our seats to them? We have been financially subsidizing Hindi states for decades (see Section 16). Enough is enough.

### **4. Outrage in NEET-2018**

Having realized that pleas from students, parents, doctors, political parties and state government, and a unanimous vote in Tamil Nadu State Legislative Assembly against NEET, did not succeed, parents and students grudgingly accepted NEET and prepared for NEET in 2018.

Indian government's Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) was responsible for conducting and evaluating NEET. Each candidate (student) was asked to list three examination centres of their preference, and CBSE was supposed to allocate one of them. Usually candidates list 3 centers closer to their homes. May 6, 2018 was the NEET examination day. Students received notifications couple of weeks before May 6 as to which center they would have to go to write NEET.

A thunder strike came down on thousands of Tamil Nadu students. Over 5000 Tamil Nadu students were notified that they had to go to another state (Kerala, Rajasthan) to write NEET. 1,550 students from Madurai District, 1,520 students from Thiruchi District and 2301 students from Thirunelveli (Nellai) District were assigned examination centres in Ernakulam area in Kerala State. This alone adds to 5371 students. There are additional students allotted locations in Rajasthan. (Thinanthan; May 6, 2018).

According to CBSE, students in all other states were allocated examination centres in their own states (Economic Times; May 5, 2018). This hardship fell on only Tamil Nadu students – over 5000 of them.

### **5. Indian Government Reaction to the 2018 Problem**

Pleas to add additional examination centers in Tamil Nadu to accommodate these 5000-plus students did not get any result from Indian Government. Their response was that more Tamil Nadu students than expected registered for NEET this year. If the Indian government from thousands of miles to the north cannot understand the socio-economic and educational conditions in Tamil Nadu but base their decision on the conditions in Hindi states or some “national average”, why should Tamil Nadu students suffer? Why should the bright future of some exceptional Tamil Nadu students be doomed?

Would the Indian Government have acted in the same callous, uncaring, “go to hell” attitude if the affected students were from Hindi states? We will answer it in a later section. First, we want to thank those who helped us in the time of our need.

## **6. Tamil Nadu Government Action**

Having failed to persuade Indian government to rectify the situation, Tamil Nadu State government did what it could to reduce the burden on affected students. Many NEET candidates are from poor families and did not have money to go to out of state examination centres. Tamil Nadu government offered to pay rail or bus ticket plus 1000 Rupees to cover hotel and related expenses.

Indian Government, which created the problem, did not offer even this financial help. Would the Indian Government have acted this way if the affected students were from Hindi states? We will look into it in a later section.

## **7. Help from Private Individuals and Organizations**

A number of individuals came forward with financial help to students who had to travel to other states. Kerala Tamil Association (Kerala Tamil Sangam) and Rajasthan Tamil Association (Rajasthan Tamil Sangam) offered any help they could to those coming to their states. Kerala Tamil Sangam (in collaboration with the Kerala State Government) and Rajasthan Tamil Sangam opened welcome centres at railway and bus stations to assist incoming students. Help for traveling from place of stay to examination centers and food was also offered to students. Some Rajasthan Tamils opened their own homes to female students coming from Tamil Nadu.

Indian government did nothing to assist these students who were forced to go to other states because of its fault. Does the Indian government care about the children of Tamil Nadu? Obviously, not.

## **8. A Special Thanks to the People, Government Officials and Chief Minister of Kerala**

Over 5300 students were allotted examination centers in Kerala State. Government of Kerala did everything possible to assist those students. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan issued orders to district collectors and police chiefs to provide all assistance to the

Tamilnadu students. Kerala government also opened help desks at railway stations and bus stands. Indian government did not open even one help center at railway stations (railway stations and rail service are run by Indian government). Tamil Nadu will ever be grateful to the people, government officials and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan of Kerala.

There are no reports of help from Rajasthan State government to the students who went to write NEET in that state.

## **9. Indian Railways and its Meager Help**

Students went to Kerala and Rajasthan by bus, private cars, train and air; mostly by bus and train. Indian Railways, operated by the Indian government, could have played a major role with the travel. It did not.

The only news report on this issue is that Southern Railways permitted students with unreserved tickets to travel to Ernakulam (Kerala) in compartments with sleeping beds. We thank Southern Railway officials. We want to point out that Rajasthan is outside Southern Railways and those who had to go there did not get even this concession. Indian government could have directed Indian Railways to provide all possible assistance but it did not. Indian government could have, and should have, offered students free train travel. India created the hardship but it did not even lift a little finger to help.

If it were Hindi state students, instead of Tamil Nadu students, would Indian government have helped? Yes, it would have. We will discuss it in a later section.

(End of Part 1 of 3)

[Back to Table of Contents](#) or Scroll down for the next chapter

## 6.

# NEET Examinations - India Takes over Medical Education: A Blow to Tamil Nadu and State Rights

## Part II: Mother India or Evil Stepmother India?

Thanjai Nalankilli

[First Published: June 2018]

### OUTLINE (Part 2 of 3)

#### FOREWORD

10. Were Allocation of Out-of-State Examination Centres Intentional or due to Ineptness Of Indian Government?
11. NEET Director's Casual, Uncaring Statement
12. Were the Students Adversely Affected?
13. Would Indian Government Have Reacted Differently if Hindi State Students Were Affected?
14. Step Motherly Treatment: 2014 IAS Examination Changes to Help Hindi Students
15. Step Motherly Treatment: 2013 Help to North Indian Students

#### ABBREVIATIONS

CBSE - Central Board of Secondary Education

IAS - Indian Administrative Services

IIT - Indian Institute of Technology

IPS - Indian Police Service

JEE - Joint Entrance Examination

KM - Kilometre

NEET - National Eligibility cum Entrance Test

RRB - Railway Recruitment Board

#### FOREWORD

Education used to be solely under the control of state governments. Then Indian Parliament brought it under the dual control of central government and state government, with the central government making all decisions even if state government opposes those decisions. Medical colleges used to be totally under the control of state governments. Decisions on entrance examinations and admissions were made by state governments. Tamil Nadu State had one of the top medical education systems in India. This resulted in better health care for the state people compared to Hindi states. Yet Indian government interfered and set up national entrance examinations called "National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET)". It is causing unnecessary hardships to Tamil Nadu students. Only ones benefiting from this scheme are Hindi states that have less medical colleges

and lower quality of medical education. We do not mind the central government offering entrance examinations in states that welcome it. Do not interfere in states like Tamil Nadu that have stated that they do not want NEET examinations. Indian government intrusion into medical college admissions is the subject of this 3-parts article.

Our position is that education should be solely under the control of state governments. Devolve education BACK TO state governments. Indian government intrusion benefits the Hindi states and harms most non-Hindi states.

## **10. Were Allocation of Out-of-State Examination Centres Intentional or due to Ineptness Of Indian Government?**

Only an enquiry by a retired high court judge would give the answer. Yet no enquiry was ordered and not even disciplinary action taken against responsible officers. Let me explain.

According to NEET, students in all other states were allocated examination centres in their own states and only Tamil Nadu students (over 5000 of them) were affected (Economic Times; May 5, 2018).

Was it intentionally done because Tamil Nadu so vehemently opposed NEET examinations? Was Indian Government showing its power that it can not only hold NEET in Tamil Nadu against its opposition but can also hold it such a way to make the experience so miserable for over 5000 Tamil Nadu students? We do not know.

We cannot answer whether it is the vindictive action of the Indian government or the total ineptitude of the Indian government? An enquiry by a retired High Court judge with power to compel sworn testimony from India's Human Resources Minister, CBSE officials, NEET director, and other officials involved in holding NEET in Tamil Nadu would shed light into the reasons behind this total injustice to over 5000 Tamil Nadu students.

This type of injustice to a state will recur again unless the reasons are publicly exposed and actions taken against responsible officials, as necessary. Yet no enquiry is being held. This is unacceptable.

## **11. NEET Director's Casual, Uncaring Statement**

NEET director Sanyam Bharadwaj's casual, uncaring statement, "maybe about 1000 or 1500 student were given the nearest available centres in neighbouring cities" (TheNewsMinute.com; May 4, 2018) is unacceptable. He had not even found out the number of students affected; it is not "may be 1000 or 1500" students, it is over 5000 students (Section 4); also it is not "neighboring cities", even Ernakulam in Kerala is over 250 kilometres from Thirunrelveli and takes 8 hours travel by train. 5371 students were forced to go to Ernakulam.

Some students were forced to go to Udaipur, Rajasthan State. Thirunelveli to Udaipur via Chennai is over 2500 kilometres and takes over 2 days of travel. Yet NEET director Sanyam Bharadwaj so callously and casually brushes it aside as “neighbouring cities”. He should have been dismissed. He is still on the job.

## **12. Were the Students Adversely Affected?**

Were those 5000-plus students who had to go to other states to write NEET adversely affected? Would it affect the marks they score in NEET? Absolutely, yes.

Some of these students had to travel over 2500 kilometers to go to Rajasthan; this takes two days of travel by train. Add to this hardship, the language barrier. Even the trip to Kerala could take half-a-day; because Tamil and Kerala’s Malayalam are closely related, Tamil students may understand most Malayalam words but difficult to converse back and definitely could not read. Add to the stress of language barrier, staying and writing examination in unfamiliar environment.

Students usually study hard during the last days and hours, and precious time was lost in travel.

Stress, lack of sleep, and loss of hours of study would surely take toll on affected students’ performance. Just a few marks may decide whether one gets admission to a medical college or not. I can say with 100% certainty that many well-qualified brilliant students would lose their opportunity to become doctors. This is unfortunate and an unwarranted blow to Tamil Nadu. We will not forget it.

## **13. Would Indian Government Have Reacted Differently if Hindi State Students Were Affected?**

We have established that over 5000 Tamil Nadu students were adversely affected (Section 12). We also established that Indian Government did not do anything to correct the situation to even the playing field for these Tamil Nadu students (Section 5 and 9). Would Indian government have reacted differently if Hindi state students were affected? Yes, it would have done everything possible to correct the situation. Here are two example that prove our point (Sections 14 and 15).

## **14. Step Motherly Treatment: 2014 IAS Examination Changes to Help Hindi Students**

In July 2014, Hindi students demanded that English comprehension questions in the preliminary examination for Indian Administrative Services (IAS) be removed. All IAS candidates have at least a Bachelor Degree and these questions are at the high school English level. These English questions carried 22.5 marks out 200. Hindi students protested against these questions. Indian Prime Minister Modi asked the examination agency to postpone the examination all over India until Hindi students’ demand is resolved. Then, within days (ahead of the scheduled examination date), Indian

government announced that marks for these questions would not be considered in the selection process. Hindi students' demands were met in a timely manner to their satisfaction. [The changes made to IAS Preliminary examination to satisfy Hindi students, in fact, discriminated against non-Hindi students. This is discussed in Reference 1.]

Indian government knows how to act swiftly and even willing to postpone the examination all over India to meet Hindi students' demand. Now, when Tamil Nadu students are genuinely discriminated, Indian government did nothing to correct it. Where is Prime Minister Modi who wanted the IAS examinations postponed? Why did he not call for the postponement of NEET examinations? If you can postpone IAS examinations, you can postpone NEET too. We are tired of excuses from the Indian government when Tamil Nadu suffers but jumps to swift action when Hindi people have a problem. It is typical "evil stepmother" behavior of the Indian government.

If you do not want to postpone the examination, why not add more examination centers in Tamil Nadu? We know it had to be done in about a week. Does not matter. All that is required is a few secure buildings, examination supervisors and police protection. All these could have been done. Indian government did not even make an attempt. Indian government did not care. Instead, NEET director downplayed the hardships of affected Tamil Nadu students and dismissed their problems so flippantly and callously as "“maybe about 1000 or 1500 student were given the nearest available centres in neighbouring cities". It is not 1000 or 1500 students, it is over 5000 (see Section 4). These are not neighbouring cities; Ernakulam (Kerala) is half-a-day travel, Jaipur (Rajasthan) is two-days travel.)

The same government that took care of Hindi students' demands swiftly in 2014 did nothing to alleviate the unfair hardships of Tamil Nadu students. It is typical "evil stepmother" behavior of the Indian government.

## **15. Step Motherly Treatment: 2013 Help to North Indian Students**

Indian Railways offered special train compartments for 150 North Indian students who came seeking railway jobs in Tamil Nadu. It did no such thing for Tamil Nadu students who were forced to go to other states to write NEET examination. Evil step-motherly treatment?

This event is reported in detail in the largest circulation Tamil newspaper Thinanthi on November 18, 2013. Students from North India came to Madurai (Tamil Nadu) to write Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) examinations because there were not enough jobs in their states. No one forced them to come to Madurai; they wanted jobs in Tamil Nadu and so they came here to write the employment examination in Tamil Nadu. This is unlike the NEET student case in which Tamil Nadu students wanting to study in Tamil Nadu medical colleges were forced to write examination in other states.

These North Indian students, after the examination, went to Madurai railway station to go home and boarded reserved compartments in the Nellai Express going to Chennai although they had only unreserved tickets. Tamil Nadu passengers with reserved tickets called authorities. The North Indian students refused to leave the reserved compartments when police asked them to leave. When police evicted them (about 150 students) from the reserved compartments, they started to destroy railway property. Then these students blocked railway tracks and stopped train traffic. Did police arrest them? No. What did railway authorities do? They added special compartments just for these students so they may travel in comfort unlike us common travelers. Remember that railway is under the Indian Government.

These North Indian Students caused two-hours delay for Nellai Express and also delayed Pothikai Express and Muthunagar Express that had to use the tracks that these students blocked. These students should have been arrested and tried, and barred from railway employment in Tamil Nadu. Instead they were given special treatment to travel in their own special compartments.

Now let us see what Indian Railways did for the NEET students who were forced to travel to other states because of Indian government's fault. It did not provide special compartments. Southern Railways allowed NEET candidates with unreserved tickets to travel to Ernakulam in reserved compartments, if seats available. Even this little concession was not available to those who were forced to travel to Rajasthan (two-days travel).

Railways could have arranged for a special train for those students forced to travel to Ernakulam. The train could start from Thiruchi (picking up 1,520 students from Thiruchi District), stop at Madurai (picking up 1,520 students from Thiruchi District), stop at Thirunelveli (picking up 2301 students from Thirunelveli District) and then go straight to Ernakulam with no other stops. This would have made the travel a little bit stress free for these 5371 students and their companions.

We do not expect a special train for students forced to go to Rajasthan. Railways could have arranged for a few special compartments exclusively for them to make the two-days travel a little less stressful.

That is what a motherly government would have done; make life a bit easier for her children. What we saw was uncaring step-motherly behaviour from India.

(End of Part 2 of 3)

## Reference

1. Thanjai Nalankilli, "Hindi Imposition Papers (Volume 4: Hindi Imposition Through Educational Institutions") and (Volume 5: Hindi Imposition at Indian Government Offices), E-books available free on the Internet.

[Back to Table of Contents](#) or Scroll down for the next chapter

## 7.

# **NEET Examinations - India Takes over Medical Education: A Blow to Tamil Nadu and State Rights**

## **Part III: Dark Days of Tamil Nadu**

Thanjai Nalankilli

[First Published: June 2018; Updated: December 2019]

### **OUTLINE (Part 3 of 3)**

#### **FOREWORD**

16. Multitude Of Discriminations and Injustices Against Tamil Nadu
17. We Can Manage Our Own Affairs
18. Concluding Remarks

#### **ABBREVIATIONS**

AIADMK - All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

BJP - Bharatiya Janata Party

CMD - Cauvery Management Board

CWDT - Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal

DMK - Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

IAS - Indian Administrative Services

IIT - Indian Institute of Technology

IPS - Indian Police Service

JEE - Joint Entrance Examination

NEET - National Eligibility cum Entrance Test

#### **FOREWORD**

Education used to be solely under the control of state governments. Then Indian Parliament brought it under the dual control of central government and state government, with the central government making all decisions even if state government opposes those decisions. Medical colleges used to be totally under the control of state governments. Decisions on entrance examinations and admissions were made by state governments. Tamil Nadu State had one of the top medical education systems in India. This resulted in better health care for the state people compared to Hindi states. Yet Indian government interfered and set up national entrance examinations called "National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET)". It is causing unnecessary hardships to Tamil Nadu students. Only ones benefiting from this scheme are Hindi states that have less medical colleges and lower quality of medical education. We do not mind the central government offering entrance examinations in states that welcome it. Do not interfere in states like Tamil Nadu that have stated that they do not want NEET examinations. Indian government intrusion into medical college admissions is the subject of this 3-parts article.

Our position is that education should be solely under the control of state governments. Devolve education BACK TO state governments. Indian government intrusion benefits the Hindi states and harms most non-Hindi states.

## **16. Multitude Of Discriminations and Injustices Against Tamil Nadu**

### **16.1 The "All-India" Parties (BJP and Congress)**

NEET is just one example of the multitude of discriminations and injustices meted out to Tamil Nadu over the last seven decades. India is not “mother India” for Tamil Nadu, it is “evil stepmother India”, irrespective of which party rules India. The major “all-India parties”, Congress and Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP), are dominated by Hindi politicians and they act in the interest of Hindi people. In the 2019 parliamentary elections, Congress Party got only 12.76% votes and BJP got 3.66% votes in Tamil Nadu State. Yet one or the other party controls the Indian government and tells Tamil Nadu what to do. Is it democracy?

### **16.2 Discriminatory, Centralized Examinations**

NEET for medical college admission is forced on us in spite of Tamil Nadu government's objections. Similar all-India examinations are proposed for engineering colleges, agricultural colleges and judges. We saw what happened in NEET. The same could happen in all these areas. Examinations for the much coveted IAS and IPS are biased in favor of Hindi students [Reference 1]; this fouled the IAS/IPS hopes of more capable and industrious Tamil Nadu students.

### **16.3 Special Favours for Hindi Students in IIT**

Once you get admitted to premier colleges of higher learning, even there Hindi students are pampered and favoured. Here is an example. Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) are the premiere institutions for technical studies. Hindi students get an advantage over Tamil students in admission to IITs because they get question papers for the Joint Entrance Examination (IIT-JEE) in Hindi but Tamil students do not get in Tamil (they have to use one of two alien languages-- English or Hindi). Even after our best students pass this discriminatory hurdle, Hindi students get special treatment. Hindustan Times (October 2, 2016) reported that “IIT authorities are setting up a support system to ensure that study material is put across in a way that students from Hindi-medium schools can understand.” In other words, Hindi students will get notes and other study materials in Hindi (developed by newly created “Hindi cells” in IITs). Two IITs have already started these Hindi programmes. Hindustan Times (October 2, 2016) reported that, in IIT-Delhi, staffers in the Hindi cells would explain the subject to Hindi students in Hindi. In other words, there would be special coaching classes in Hindi. IIT-Roorkee would hold extra classes where professors fluent in English and Hindi would explain scientific concepts to Hindi students in chaste Hindi. What about IIT students from non-Hindi states?

If Indian taxpayer funded IITs are offering Hindi study materials and special Hindi classes, how about the same in Bengali, Tamil, Telugu and other languages? We pay taxes too. Is it India or Hindia? With such special treatment for Hindi students in admission and in classes in elite educational institutions, less and less non-Hindi students would get admission to institutions of higher learning, and less and less non-Hindi students would graduate with high grades from these institutions. Future of our children is doomed fore ever to be subservient to Hindi people.

#### **16.4 Economic Plunder of Tamil Nadu**

For every 100 Rupees Indian government collects from Tamil Nadu, it gets back 40 Rupees from India in the form of financial grants and central government projects. In contrast, for every 100 Rupees Indian government collects from the Hindi state Uttar Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh gets back 179 Rupees from India [Reference 2]. Is it fair?

#### **16.5 Environment, Fishermen Safety and Cauvery River Water**

There is more than money that Tamil Nadu is losing. Major decisions internal to Tamil Nadu are made by Indian government. Industrial plants destroying our environment are forced on us even after objections from Tamil Nadu State government. Our fishermen do not get any protection from Indian Coastguards although we contribute our share for its ships, personnel and operations. Indian Government did everything possible to delay and dilute the independent Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) award of 2007 to allocate water from Cauvery River, until finally, after decades of litigation, Indian Supreme Court ordered India to set up the Cauvery Management Board (CMD). How many Tamil Nadu farming families were ruined by this Indian government delay and obstruction?

### **17. We Can Manage Our Own Affairs**

Grown children who make their own earnings and mature enough to lead their own lives have no need to be under the control of an evil stepmother. Tamil Nadu has enough revenues and has the skills and people to chart its own future and administer its own government without the big mama from New Delhi controlling our actions.

### **18. Concluding Remarks**

How to end this discriminatory Hindi politicians' hegemony over Tamil Nadu? Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) had a "solution" in its early years. In the 1940s, 1950s and early 1960s, it demanded independence for Tamil Nadu or Dravida Nadu from India. Some top leaders of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) like M. G. Ramachandran and Nedunjchezian were in DMK during that time. Although DMK won 50 seats to the State Legislative Assembly (50 MLAs), it dropped the independence (separatist) demand soon after the Indian parliament passed the 16-th Constitutional Amendment in 1963, prohibiting parties and individuals demanding independence from contesting elections. AIADMK split from DMK 9 years later in 1972. The split has

nothing to do with the independence demand; that demand was dropped 9 years before in 1963.

Both DMK and AIADMK are opposed to Indian government's step-motherly treatment of Tamil Nadu. Although these parties were elected to power in the state again and again from 1967 onwards, there is nothing they could do to stop Indian government's discrimination. Are we doomed to be ruled by Hindi politicians forever? NEET, IIT, IAS, Cauvery, fishermen, economy and other matters mentioned in the preceding paragraphs are only symptoms; the underlying disease is the total control the Indian government, and through it the Hindi belt politicians, have over the future of the people of Tamil Nadu. Indian government does not act as a benevolent parent but as an evil stepmother. Unless Tamil Nadu stops this evil stepmother, and charts its own future, the future is dark and gloomy for the people of Tamil Nadu.

END OF THE THREE- PARTS ARTICLE

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[Back to Table of Contents](#) or Scroll down for the next chapter

## 7.

### **Protests Against Jallikattu Ban Rocks Tamil Nadu**

Eru thazhuval (also known as, manju virattu and jalli kattu) is an ancient sports event of "taming" specially bred bulls. It is not bull fighting where bulls are harmed. Indian government who does not know anything about jallikattu banned the sport under animal cruelty laws, paying no attention to Tamil Nadu government's explanation that the intent of the sport is not to harm the bulls. Occasionally a bull or a person gets injured. It is no different from a racecar driver or a football player getting injured. India does not ban car racing or football. Repeated requests by state government to remove the ban fell into the deaf years of Indian government. Indian government relented only after massive protests in Tamil Nadu.

Protests against the jallikattu ban was massive. It brought out the Tamil nationalist feeling and pent up frustrations and anger against Indian government. This was reflected in the placards and slogans heard at the protests.

We want Indian government that is ignorant of Tamil culture and heritage to stop meddling into our internal affairs. We are bigger than over half the countries of the world in land area, population and industrial production. We are capable of running our own affairs. You are not our masters; we are not your vassals.

[Back to Table of Contents](#) or Scroll down for the next chapter

## 8.

# **India and Tamil Nadu Clash over Jallikattu, Tamil Identity, Tamil Pride and Tamil Nationalism**

## Part I

### **The Ancient Tamil Sport of Jallikattu Banned in India: Protests and Reversal**

(This is a two-parts article)

Arumugam Kumaraswamy and Thanjai Nalankilli

[First Published: March 2018]

#### **Outline (Part 1 of 2)**

##### **Abbreviations**

1. Introduction
2. Etymology or Origin of the Name Jallikattu
3. Antiquity of Jallikattu
4. Are Bulls Harmed? Why the Opposition from Critics?
5. The Supreme Court Ban and Tamil Nadu Wants it Removed by Law
6. Indian Government Charade and Duplicity
7. The 2017 Jallikattu Protests
8. Who was Responsible for Starting the Violence in Chennai?
9. The 2017 Protests End in Success
10. Is it Only a Temporary Success?
11. Who is Responsible for All the Hardships from the Protests?

##### **Abbreviations**

AIADMK - All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

BJP - Bharatiya Janata Party

DMK - Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

MLA - Member of (state) Legislative Assembly

#### **1. Introduction**

"Eruthazhuvuthal" or "eru thazhuval" is an ancient sports event in Tamil Nadu involving specially bred bulls; it is also known as "manju virattu"; nowadays is often called "jalli kattu" or jallikattu.

Jallikattu is a popular, annual event in mid-January, on the day after Pongal, the Tamil harvest festival. This day is called "maatu pongal" (maadu means cattle, especially bulls). Although the event is held in a number of Tamil Nadu villages, a few villages are

especially known for it. People from all over Tamil Nadu and even a few foreigners come to see it.

Jallikattu is not bull fighting. It is bull cuddling or bull holding or bull taming (eruthazhuvuthal means bull cuddling or embracing the bull). Specially bred bulls are released into an arena. In one form of jallikattu unarmed men try to hold onto the bull as long as they can. In another form unarmed men try to take garlands or chains tied to the bull's horns or around the neck. In olden days, sometimes the bull owner gave his daughter in marriage to the winner of the sport.

## **2. Etymology or Origin of the Name Jallikattu**

"Eruthazhuvuthal" or "eru thazhuval" and "manju virattu" are the ancient original names of this sport. "jalli kattu" or jallikattu is a more recent name. Some wrongly think that the origin of the name is in Sanskrit because of the letter "ja" in it. Actually "jallikattu" is a distortion of the pure Tamil name "sallikattu (challikattu)". It is combination of two Tamil words "salli (challi)" and "kattu". Salli means coin, especially small coins (small change) but also used in a broader sense as coin. Kattu means tie (verb). In some jallikattu events, owner of the bull or organizer of the event ties a chain of coins around the bull's neck and men try to get the chain off the neck. The one who takes the chain gets to keep it and may also get other prizes. Thus the name salli kattu; and it distorted to jalli kattu.

## **3. Antiquity of Jallikattu**

Jallikattu has a long history in Tamil Nadu. It dates back to the days of the Third Tamil Academy (Third Tamil Sangam) that was some 2000 years ago. A seal from the Indus Valley Civilization depicting the sport is preserved in the National Museum, New Delhi. A painting, estimated to be about 1,500 years old, discovered in a cave near Madurai, shows a man trying to control a bull. (This paragraph is based on Wikipedia and more information may be found in Wikipedia.)

## **4. Are Bulls Harmed? Why the Opposition from Critics?**

The fact of the matter is that bulls are not harmed in jallikattu unlike in Spanish bull fighting. In fact bulls are very seldom, if ever injured. Occasional, unintended, accidental injuries do happen. Occasionally horses fall during horse races and break their legs. No one has banned horse racing. Then why pick on jallikattu?

The unarmed men at times get injured trying to hold on to the bulls. They went into the arena knowing the risks as in wrestling or boxing or auto racing. India has not banned any of these sports. Why ban jallikattu?

There are critics who say that the sport should be banned because bulls were given alcohol or sprayed with chili powder before the event. This is not the tradition and it is illegal to do so. There are laws in place and the bulls are inspected by veterinarians. If

there is occasional violations of the law in specific cases, bring them to the attention of police and have the criminals prosecuted. There are a few instances of illegal use of performance enhancing drugs among Olympic athletes. Culprits are banned from Olympics but Olympics go on. No one ever demanded that Olympics be banned. Then why is India banning jallikattu? Another reason cited by critics of jallikattu is that sometimes spectators are injured by bulls getting out of the arena. This is not the fault of the sports but that of the organizers not providing adequate security. Spectators have been occasionally injured in auto-racing, air shows and in fact in some music concerts when people get trampled. These events were never banned.

Yet jallikattu, the ancient cultural event of TamilNadu was banned by decision makers a thousand miles away. Matters relating to Tamil culture and language should be decided by a court in TamilNadu consisting of judges from Tamil Nadu. If anyone has valid evidence that bulls are harmed, they should bring that to the attention of the state government for resolution, and accept the decision of state government and state high court.

## **5. The Supreme Court Ban and Tamil Nadu Wants it Removed by Law**

Supreme Court of India banned jallikattu in May 2014 under India's Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (1960), citing "supposed" animal cruelty. The next jallikattu events would have been in January 2015. Tamil Nadu State Government, that has already implemented procedures to protect the bulls and the people, appealed to the Government of India to enact laws that would legally overcome the Supreme Court ban and jallikattu could be held in January 2015. (DNA News website; January 16, 2015).

Indian government refused to act to restore the millennia old sports. This resulted in public protests in Tamil Nadu. Local stores closed and people raised black flags.

Jallikattu remained banned in 2016 also, with some public protests and a few events held in defiance.

## **6. Indian Government Charade and Duplicity**

Indian government played a charade with Tamil Nadu. It issued an executive order in January 2016 allowing jallikattu, instead of passing a proper law or ordinance that could legally overcome the Supreme Court ban. Supreme Court put on hold the executive order thus continuing the ban on jallikattu. This should not come as a surprise to Indian government because legal experts publicly warned that the executive might not be enough to overcome the 2014 Supreme Court ban (The Hindu; January 9, 2016). Indian government ruling party was not particularly interested in allowing jallikattu, An Indian government minister, Ms. Menaka Gandhi from a northern state, publicly opposed it. She said that the ruling party BJP was against Jallikattu (The Hindu; January 17, 2015). Neither Prime Minister Modi nor party officials called her to withdraw the statement.

In our opinion, Indian government issued the executive order just to assuage the opposition in Tamil Nadu but not particularly interested in lifting the ban. This did not go unnoticed in Tamil Nadu. Indian government and Prime Minister Modi came under criticism during the massive 2017 protests. The News Minute.com wrote on January 19, 2017, "But the worst of the sloganeering, caustic remarks and unpublishable expletives were directed at [Indian Prime Minister] Narendra Modi."

## **7. The 2017 Jallikattu Protests**

Then came 2017 and the ban was still in effect. Tamil Nadu erupted in protests. The 2017 protests were more widespread and more intense than the 2015 and 2016 protests.

There were protest marches and demonstrations in many villages, towns and cities. Some towns and villages also went into full shutdown with shops and services closed. Because of space limitations it is not possible for us to go into details of protests at each and every place although every one of these demonstrations is important and contributed to the eventual success in lifting the ban. We limit ourselves to just two places: Alanganallur, known globally for its jallikattu events, and Chennai, the state capital.

### 7.1 Alanganallur Protests 2017

Alanganallur is a village in Madurai District of Tamil Nadu with a population of under 12,000. It is just 18 kilometers from Madurai City, the ancient citadel of Tamil. It is famous for its jallikattu events. It is only natural that this village became the focal point of protests against jallikattu ban. People from a number of Tamil Nadu districts, all the way from Chennai District in the north to Kanyakumari District in the south, were coming to Alanganallur to demonstrate. So large numbers of police were posted there. Government cancelled all bus services to the village and erected check posts and barricades in all the five main routes to the village, to prevent the thousands of oncoming protesters from reaching the village. At least 50 people were arrested and 20 injured in police lathi charge (lathi – baton). There was also camaraderie between protesters and police; protesters brought food to the police because the police had not arranged food for themselves.

### 7.2 Chennai City Protests 2017

Chennai, formerly known as Madras, is the largest city in the state and also its capital. So it became another major centre for protests. People from in and around Chennai came to the famous Marina Beach (Chennai Marina or Madras Marina) for demonstrations. Business Standard (January 20, 2017) wrote, "Protesters, said to number almost 30,000, have been sleeping and eating on the beach and their numbers have grown steadily". Protesters included large numbers of male and female students, Information Technology (IT) professionals, housewives (some with children) and even some visually challenged people. Truckers, transport unions (bus drivers, etc,) and merchants joined the protest and called a one-day shutdown.

Protesters kept politicians off the protests for the most part; any visit by politicians to Marina protests were kept short. The opposition party Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) stopped trains in a few places and some students joined them but it was the apolitical protests that were huge and attracted people and press. Almost all political parties in the state opposed the jallikattu ban. State's ruling party All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) strongly opposed the ban but it cannot do anything without Indian government approval. State leaders of India's ruling party Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) expressed opposition to the ban; obviously they could not convince party leaders in the north. BJP government had the power to remove the ban (as we would see later) but gave excuses.

Lakshmi Saravanakumar, returned his Sahitya Akademi's Yuva Puraskar award for his novel "Kaanakan" to protest the ban.

Protests went beyond the borders of Tamil Nadu and even beyond India. Tamils living in America, Australia, Canada, Ireland, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, United Kingdom and some middle-eastern countries organized public protests. Within India, protests were reported in Bengaluru (Bangalore), Hyderabad and New Delhi.

What started and remained peaceful for the first several days turned violent in the last few days. Whether police attempts to disband the demonstrators started the violence or some demonstrators started the violence and police responded with tear gas and lathi charge (baton charge) is not clear. Stones and water bottles were thrown at police. A police station, police jeep, police motorcycles and some private cars were damaged or burned.

Protests around the state ended only after the Indian government approved Tamil Nadu's law allowing jallikattu.

According to Indian Express (January 21, 2017), "As thousands of transport workers, traders, drivers, students, officials of many private firms and the film fraternity, among others, joined the agitation on the fourth day, an estimated 20 lakh people [2 million people] were out on streets across Tamil Nadu on Friday [January 20, 2017] demanding removal of the ban on Jallikattu."

## **8. Who was Responsible for Starting the Violence in Chennai?**

We repeat this paragraph from Section 7, to put things in proper perspective: "What started and remained peaceful for the first several days turned violent in the last few days. Whether police attempts to disband the demonstrators started the violence or some demonstrators started the violence and police responded with tear gas and lathi charge (baton charge) is not clear. Stones and water bottles were thrown at police. A police station, police jeep, police motorcycles and some private cars were damaged or burned."

Additional Commissioner of Police (Chennai), S. N. Seshasai, said that it was not the students but some anti-social groups that started the violence. A video came out showing

a lady police setting fire to an auto; television channels broadcasted the video. Did she do it on her own or was she an agent provocateur? If the latter, who was behind it? Additional Commissioner of Police, S. N. Seshasai, said that the video was fake (Thinanthathi-Tamil newspaper with the largest circulation among Tamil newspapers, January 26, 2017). To our knowledge, he had not provided any evidence that the video was fake. We would have liked to see an independent investigation by a retired judge to investigate this matter.

## **9. The 2017 Protests End in Success**

As the protests intensified, finally Indian government agreed to approve Tamil Nadu state law allowing jallikattu. Tamil Nadu legislative assembly unanimously passed a law for removal of the jallikattu ban (Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (Tamil Nadu Amendment) - 2017). Indian government approved it. Indian President Pranab Mukherjee and Tamil Nadu governor (un-elected by people; appointed by Indian government) C. Vidyasagar Rao signed it. Supreme Court did not interfere. It was legal to hold jallikattu. Tamil Nadu chief minister O. Panneerselvam opened a major jallikattu event. Jallikattu events went on in several places in Tamil Nadu. There were no problems in January 2018 also.

## **10. Is it Only a Temporary Success?**

Some legal experts believe that Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (Tamil Nadu Amendment) – 2017 by Tamil Nadu legislature is only a temporary solution and may not withstand future legal challenges before the Supreme Court. They think that Indian parliament (not Tamil Nadu legislative assembly) should amend The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act - 1960 (PCA Act of 1960) in order for jallikattu to continue permanently without future legal challenges. Yet the Indian government has not yet brought forth such an amendment before the parliament. India's ruling party BJP has the majority in parliament and it could pass the amendment if it wants. This shows Indian government paying lip service to lifting the ban but not passing parliamentary legislation that could withstand any future legal challenge before the Supreme Court.

## **11. Who is Responsible for All the Hardships from the Protests?**

Large-scale protests are not fun for protesters or people living in those areas. Protesters are away from their jobs, schools and colleges. Collectively tens of thousands of working hours were lost affecting the economy. Tens of thousand of hours of education were lost. It was an enormous loss for the people of Tamil Nadu. Protesters were injured in police lathi-charges (baton charges). Properties were damaged. Local people underwent unnecessary hardship because shops were closed and buses did not run in several places on one or more days. Yet it seems to be the only way to get our grievances addressed.

Who is to blame for the jallikattu protests and the accompanying hardships on people? Is it the protesters? No, it seems to be the only way to get attention to our just demands. Is it the Supreme Court? No, it interprets the laws; it does not make laws. **Is it the state**

**government?** No. It can pass laws but needs Indian government approval before they take effect. Responsibility for the jallikattu protests and the accompanying economic losses and hardship rests on the shoulders of the Indian government.

People, politicians and government of Tamil Nadu had asked Indian government to help lift the ban. It did not do anything effective (see Section 8). Only after massive protests did the Indian government acted effectively. It could have done what it did in late January 2017 in mid-January to avert the massive protests. Indian government did not act but gave excuses. As late as January 20, 2017, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was giving excuses for not acting to lift the ban. “After a short meeting between the Prime Minister and [Tamil Nadu] Chief Minister in New Delhi on January 20, 2017, Prime Minister's Office tweeted that it cannot intervene as the matter is being heard by the Supreme Court ”. (Business Standard; January 20, 2017) Yet shortly after this statement, the same Indian government approved the state law allowing jallikattu. What happened in the brief period? Did the Supreme Court say something? No. There was no comment from it. Only thing that happened was that protests were intensifying and no end in sight.

That seems to be the only reason for the Indian government to agree to approve the state law passed by state legislative assembly. **Thus the prolonged protests and the associated hardships rest solely on the Indian government.**

This is the reason we want the Indian constitution amended such that culture and traditions are under the sole jurisdiction of state governments and high courts. No approval from the Indian government should be required.

[Article continues and ends in Part II (next chapter)]

[Back to Table of Contents](#) or Scroll down for the next chapter

## 9.

# **India and Tamil Nadu Clash over Jallikattu, Tamil Identity, Tamil Pride and Tamil Nationalism**

## Part II

### **Tamil Identity, Tamil Pride, Tamil Nationalism, Tamil Grievances, Sense of Discrimination and Devolution of Power**

(This is a two-parts article. Part I is presented in the preceding chapter.)

Arumugam Kumaraswamy and Thanjai Nalankilli

[First Published: March 2018]

#### **Outline (Part 2 of 2)**

12. Irritation over Ignorant Hindi Politicians Interfering in Tamil Life
13. Tamil Pride, Tamil Nationalism and Frustrations Over Discrimination of Tamils by Indian Government Overflow at Jallikattu Protests
14. Fringe Elements or Main Stream Tamil Nationalism
15. Decisions on Culture, Traditions and Heritage Should be Made by State Governments and State High Courts
16. Amend the Indian Constitution and Devolve Power to States
17. Devolution or Division

#### **Abbreviations**

AIADMK - All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam  
BJP - Bharatiya Janata Party  
DMK - Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam  
MLA - Member of (state) Legislative Assembly

#### **12. Irritation over Ignorant Hindi Politicians Interfering in Tamil Life**

What particularly irritates us is a statement made by a Hindi-belt politician Ms. Maneka Gandhi, Indian Government Minister for Women and Child Development. She said, "Jallikattu tradition is western culture and BJP is against it." (The Hindu, January 17, 2015). She is not just a citizen. She is an Indian government minister belonging to the current ruling party "Bharatiya Janata Party" (BJP).

Eruthazhuvuthal (manju virat̄tu, jallikattu) dates back to at least 2000 years (see Section 3) and is not "imported" from western countries. This Hindi-belt minister seems to know nothing about Tamil culture or history, but is in a position, as Indian government minister, to decide or influence decisions on cultural and traditional matters in Tamil Nadu. This should end. All matters relating to Tamil language, culture and traditions should be decided by the Government of Tamil Nadu or the high court consisting of

judges from Tamil Nadu. This applies to all states. All internal affairs of a state should be decided by state government and high court without requiring approval from the Indian government. Amend the constitution accordingly.

### **13. Tamil Pride, Tamil Nationalism and Frustrations Over Discrimination of Tamils by Indian Government Overflow at Jallikattu Protests**

During the jallikattu protests, there was an overflow of emotions of Tamil pride, Tamil nationalism and frustration and anger over Indian government's discriminatory treatment of Tamil Nadu on a wide range of issues ranging from (1) Hindi imposition, (2) Cauvery water issue, (3) inaction over Sri Lankan Navy shooting, injuring and killings of Tamil Nadu fishermen, and (4) actions and inactions during the Tamil Eelam war in Sri Lanka that ended in defeat of Tamil militants there in 2009.

Ban on jallikattu was the straw that broke the camel's back. Pent up frustrations and anger over Indian government's step-motherly treatment of Tamil Nadu erupted in these demonstrations. Ordinary people, political analysts and journalist did observe it as evidenced from headlines and news reports in many newspapers and magazines. Here we present a few examples. Notes within square parentheses [ ] are added by authors to put things in proper context and perspective.

#### 13.1 Online news magazine TheMinuteNews.com (January 19, 2017)

Online news magazine TheMinuteNews.com (January 19, 2017) under the headline "The Jallikattu Protest Is About an Eternal Lament of Being Tamil".

The protest is no longer, and perhaps never was, only about Jalikattu. It has, however, become the rallying point for disgruntlement of the Tamil people, from Tamil Eelam to Cauvery River water-sharing... The eternal lament of being a Tamil and Indian government never caring for it... "Tamilians and our issues are never taken seriously", says 36-year-old Professor Selvakumar.

#### 13.2 Online news magazine Scroll.in (January 22, 2017)

Online news magazine Scroll.in (January 22, 2017) under the headline "On the fringes of jallikattu protests, Tamil nationalism attempts to emerge."

The full headline is "On the fringes of jallikattu protests, Tamil nationalism attempts to emerge. From banners of LTTE leader Prabhakaran to slogans demanding a separate Tamil nation, the protests have taken a different turn". [LTTE was the armed rebel group that unsuccessfully fought for an independent Tamil country called "Tamil Eelam" in Sri Lanka until 2009; Prabhakaran was their leader and he was killed in battlefield in 2009.]

The Marina beach [protests] started on or about January 17. It took a Tamil nationalism tone as days went by. Voices against Hindi imposition were heard. A placard read "Modhalla Maadu, Apparum Thani Tamil Nadu" (First the bull and then a separate Tamil

Nadu). Posters calling [Indian] Republic Day as black day and threats to disrupt Republic Day parade were heard. Some who participated in the Jallikattu protests distanced themselves from these nationalist slogans and placards. Some key persons who drove the protests seem to have recognised the turn the agitation has taken, and have disassociated themselves from it. Some protestors on Marina beach displayed posters of Prabhakaran [The Tamil leader who led the unsuccessful armed rebellion against the Sri Lankan government for a separate Tamil nation in the Sri Lanka. He was killed in the battlefield in 2009]. Asked why they did so, the response was that he was a hero of the Tamils. “There is nothing wrong in celebrating him because everything that he did was for the benefit of Tamils,” said RM Kumar, an employee of a construction company. Thus the mass outburst in support of jallikattu is seen as an expression of pent-up discontent against the Union government [Indian government]. By projecting jallikattu as a common Tamil cultural tradition under threat, another issue has been added to the long list of Tamil grievances. R Bhaskaran, another jallikattu agitator in Chennai, said that the demand to make Tamil an official language in India has remained unfulfilled for decades. “They are trying to destroy our language,” he said. Many of these Tamil groups couched anti-India sentiment within anti-North India rhetoric, primarily to evade legal action. In their public meetings, a threat made repeatedly was that if the Union government did not heed the demands and aspirations of the people of Tamil Nadu, the unity of India would be in danger.

### 13.3 Hindustan Times (January 19, 2017)

Hindustan Times (January 19, 2017) under the headline "The repeated neglect of Tamil identity is the rallying point for Jallikattu protests".

The sentiments behind the protests in Tamil Nadu have moved beyond just the ban on Jallikattu, and have now become the manifestation of the many wrongs — perceived and real — meted out to the Tamil people by Delhi.... R Azhagarasan, a professor at the University of Madras said, “What we’re seeing now is an accumulated hurt because of the Delhi’s continuous contempt towards the state. Be it the Tamil fishermen’s issue, the Tamil Eelam issue, the Cauvery issue and now Jallikattu, in none of these the outcome has been in favour of the state....

### 13.4 The Hindu (January 22, 2017)

“But then jallikattu was only an excuse. The invocation of Tamil pride and culture seemed to resonate very well among the people of Tamil Nadu. ... A hundred, nay, a thousand resentments stirred in the pot, and jallikattu was merely the skim. ...Why are you protesting? “For jallikattu and Tamil culture and heritage”, was the easy answer that people gave, rather spontaneously... “This is all for upholding Tamil pride,” said a woman. A young man said in Madurai, “If we are still sitting on the rails despite rain or shine, it is only to retrieve our Tamil culture and tradition”.

### 13.5 Hindustan Times (January 13, 2017)

A political analyst said the defiance was also symbolic of Tamilian anger over the perceived injustice on several issues – from Cauvery water sharing, arrest of fishermen\* and an assault on language and culture and traditions. “The ban and refusal of the BJP government at the Centre to issue an ordinance is nothing but an assault on Tamil pride and an attempt to destroy Tamil culture and tradition,” said K Pandimuthu, a Jallikattu organiser in Cuddalore. [\*Arrests, shootings and property damage by Sri Lankan Navy, and Indian government not doing anything effective militarily, diplomatically or economically.]

### 13.6 Business Standard (January 20, 2017)

Most of the anger is focused against the Centre [Indian Central Government]. “When a group of Gujarati fishermen strayed into Pakistani waters you said Indian fishermen were arrested by the Pakistan navy, but when Tamil Nadu fishermen were arrested by the Sri Lankan forces, you claimed that Tamil fishermen were taken into custody by the Lankan navy. Are we not Indians?” is the query posed by A. Gajendran, a first-year B.A. student from a city college.

The general perception among them is that the Centre is not according proper respect to the Tamil’s sentiments. “... Centre has an inherent bias against Tamil Nadu and continues to humiliate us,” says E. Janakiraman, an undergraduate from a city college.

## **14. Fringe Elements or Main Stream Tamil Nationalism**

In Section 13.2, we referred to the online news magazine Scroll.in headline, “On the fringes of jallikattu protests, Tamil nationalism attempts to emerge”. In our opinion, whether those feelings of Tamil nationalism are on the fringe or the main stream is anyone’s guess. Yes, some people and celebrities distanced themselves from “Tamil nationalism”. Yet in a country where anyone asking for an independent Tamil Nadu (separate from India) may be arrested or harassed by police in spite of the constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech, people do hesitate to express their inner thoughts. **When people’s voices are muzzled, it is difficult to know what is in their hearts.**

Political parties would not even whisper Tamil Nadu independence because any party or person espousing it cannot contest in elections per the Sixteenth Amendment to the Indian Constitution in 1963. Only a secret referendum (vote) on the question would reveal the true feelings of the people. No one knows what the outcome of the referendum would be.

## **15. Decisions on Culture, Traditions and Heritage Should be Made by State Governments and State High Courts**

In a country with so many distinct and different cultures, traditions and languages, decisions on these matters should be made at the state level by state governments and state high courts with all the judges from within the state. Laws passed at the state

legislative assembly by majority of its members (MLAs) should need only be approved by the state governor. There should be no requirement of approval by Indian government.

We want to point out that 100% of the members of the state legislative assembly (MLAs) voted for the removal of the ban on jallikattu. India's ruling party, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) did not win a single seat in the state legislative assembly; it received less than 3% votes in the 2016 assembly elections. Even in the 2014 parliamentary elections, BJP received less than 6% votes in Tamil Nadu.

Is it democracy when a party that got less than 3% votes in the state legislative assembly elections, and less than 6% votes in the parliamentary elections in the state can over-rule and over-turn laws pertaining to internal matters of the state passed by the democratically elected state government? **No, it is not democracy. It is just crazy.**

## **16. Amend the Indian Constitution and Devolve Power to States**

We would like to see the constitution amended such that the people of the state are able to pass laws on all internal matters of the state. Laws relating to culture and tradition should be exclusively under state jurisdiction. If some traditions seem out-of-date, it should be brought to the state government or state high court for review and revision, as necessary. We do not see a role for the Indian government or the Supreme Court on matters internal to the state.

In this context, we want to point out that the state governor should be from within the state and elected by the people or the state legislative assembly. The current procedure of the Indian government appointing governors from other states is unacceptable and undemocratic.

Similarly all judges in the State High Court should be from within the state. The current requirement that some of the judges should be from out of state is an insult to states.

## **17. Devolution of Power Over Internal Matters**

In our opinion, devolution of power over all internal affairs to states is the only way to keep together the many states with diverse languages and cultures into a single, united country.

[Back to Table of Contents](#) or Scroll down for the next chapter

## Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas

Indian government decided to set up a few schools in each state called Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (means Jawahar Modern Schools) "to provide high quality education to talented children in rural areas". Surely it is a good idea but it comes with a catch. Hindi reigns supreme in these schools. Not only Hindi is taught as a compulsory subject but social sciences is taught in Hindi in Class 9, 10 and 11. If Hindi states join hands and use their state tax monies to establish Hindi schools we would have no objection. But Indian government taxes collected from Hindi and non-Hindi states are used to set up these schools. In essence Indian government takes monies from Tamil Nadu in the form of taxes and then uses some of that money to set up Hindi-centric schools in Tamil Nadu.

Here are some numbers to think about. 60% of the tax monies collected from Tamil Nadu stays with Indian government and only 40% comes back to Tamil Nadu. At the same time, the largest Hindi state, Uttar Pradesh (UP), gets 179% of the taxes it paid to Indian government [Reference 1]--in other words, UP drains the Indian government coffers while Tamil Nadu fills the Indian government coffers. We want each state, Hindi state or non-Hindi state contribute same percentage of taxes to India and the remaining taxes given back to states.

### **Reference**

1. The News Minute: 14 July 2016

[

<http://web.archive.org/web/20160715145421/http://www.thenewsminute.com/article/united-states-south-india-can-southern-collective-get-us-better-deal-delhi-46501> ]

[Back to Table of Contents](#) or Scroll down for the next chapter

## 10.

### **Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNV), Hindi Imposition and Madras High Court Ruling**

Part I: First A Few Un-Publicized Facts About Navodaya Vidyalayas (the "modern schools")

Thanjai Nalankilli

[First Published: February 2018]

*Although this article is centered on Tamil Nadu, the arguments and concerns raised are equally true for all non-Hindi states.*

#### **OUTLINE (Part 1 of 3)**

1. Introduction
2. Outrage Number One
3. Outrage Number Two
4. Arguments to the Supreme Court

#### **1. Introduction**

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) (Jawahar Modern Schools) are operated by Government of India through Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development. As Indian government run schools, these schools have to obey and implement all rules and regulations of the Indian government regarding Hindi.

These schools are established to provide high quality education to talented children in rural areas. Number of student admitted to these schools is only a minute fraction of the total students in India. Parents pay no or very little for the education. Most of the funding comes from the Indian government, that is Indian taxpayers. State government provides land and infrastructure.

Surely it is a good idea but it comes with a catch, a hook. Hindi reigns supreme in these schools. As we will explain in Part I of the article, these schools are outposts of Hindi imperialism in rural areas of non-Hindi states. Most well-known, much publicized form of Hindi imposition in these schools is that Hindi is a compulsory subject in these schools. This is only the tip of the Hindi imposition iceberg. There are even more outrageous rules of Hindi imposition and imperialism in these schools. These are not widely known. Here, in Part I of the article, we discuss two of the most outrageous rules of Hindi supremacy in these schools. These two rules are not widely known in Tamil Nadu.

#### **2. Outrage Number One**

Most students are admitted to Navodaya Vidyalayas at the sixth grade (Class 6) but some are admitted at the ninth grade (Class 9); if there are vacancies. Selection examinations for the ninth grade are in 4 subjects Mathematics, Science, Hindi and English. Notice that there is no examination in the state language. That slap to non-Hindi state languages aside, most schools in Tamil Nadu do not teach Hindi. So this gives an undue advantage to students knowledgeable in Hindi taught in some private schools.

If the purpose of establishing Navodaya Vidyalayas (“Modern Schools”) is to give high quality education to talented rural students, why is an examination in Hindi? High intelligence or talent does not mean knowledge of Hindi. Navodaya Vidyalayas are just another vehicle to thrust Hindi into non-Hindi states and promote the study of Hindi in rural areas. Instead of operating or administering Navodaya Vidyalayas, Indian government should handover the money to state governments and let them run these schools with or without Hindi as they choose.

### **3. Outrage Number Two**

This second point is even more Hindi supremacist than the first. This is yet another Hindi imperialistic requirement at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas. State language is the medium of instruction in Class 6, 7 and 8. Then comes the Hindi juggernaut. In Class 9, 10 and 11, mathematics and science are taught in English and social science taught in Hindi (Mathruboomi; September 29, 2017). This is not just Hindi imposition but an insult to non-Hindi languages. Non-Hindi languages are good enough to teach social science in the lower grades but not good enough for the upper grades; only the “superior Hindi” is good enough for the upper grades.

The stated objective of Navodaya Vidyalayas is to provide high quality education to talented rural students. Will students absorb more knowledge of social science by studying it in the mother tongue or in Hindi? Undoubtedly social science is better understood in the mother tongue. Navodaya Vidyalayas are being established as outposts of Hindi imperialism in rural areas of non-Hindi states. “Providing high quality education” is the goatskin used by the Hindi imposition wolf sent to impose Hindi on non-Hindi students. Establishment of Navodaya Vidyalayas should be opposed and the Indian government should be forced to handover the monies allocated for these schools to state governments.

### **4. Arguments to the Supreme Court**

Madras High Court has ruled that Tamil Nadu State government must allow Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) in the state and also provide free land and infrastructure. At the time of this writing (January 2018) Tamil Nadu is appealing to the Supreme Court.

Based on what I read in newspapers, Tamil Nadu government lawyers argued that these schools should not be established in Tamil Nadu because Hindi is taught as a compulsory subject. Indian government lawyers argued that Tamil is also taught in these schools.

Tamil Nadu government lawyers did not counter with the two "outrages" we listed in the previous two sections. They clearly show Tamil is lowered well below Hindi in these schools. We hope that Tamil Nadu lawyers appearing before the Indian Supreme Court would present these also to the judges. I request readers to contact your MLAs and the Minister for Education to instruct the lawyers to present all forms of Hindi imposition and imperialism to the judges. Let us hope Hindi imposition and imperialism through Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas can be stopped. (MLA – Member of Legislative Assembly)

[Back to Table of Contents](#) or Scroll down for the next chapter

## 11.

# **Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNV), Hindi Imposition and Madras High Court Ruling (India)**

## **Part II: What Does the High Court Verdict Mean?**

Thanjai Nalankilli

[First Published: October 2017]

*Although this article is centered on Tamil Nadu and Tamil, the arguments and concerns raised are equally true for all non-Hindi states.*

### **OUTLINE (Part 2 of 3)**

Abbreviations

Preface

5. Background

6. Opposition to Hindi Imposition in Tamil Nadu

7. Madras High Court Ruling

8. Discussion and a Few Unanswered Questions

9. High Court Should Order Indian Government to Use Tamil in Tamil Nadu

### **ABBREVIATIONS**

AIADMK - All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

DMK - Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

### **PREFACE**

Author is of the opinion that the courts are interpreting the constitution and laws correctly, and are coming up with rulings that are unfair to non-Hindi peoples. What we need is amendment to the constitution that would protect the language rights of all the people. Our grievance is not towards those who are interpreting the constitution but towards the unfair constitutional provisions. The problem is with the constitution and the laws and not with the judiciary.

### **5. Background**

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas are managed by Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti under the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development. As Indian government run schools, these schools have to obey and implement all rules and regulations of Indian government regarding Hindi.

Indian government's reasons for establishing these schools and Tamil Nadu government's reasons for refusing to establish these schools in Tamil Nadu are described in Part I of the three parts article.

The lawsuit in the Madras High Court and the news surrounding it said that successive Tamil Nadu state governments did not allow Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas ("Modern Schools") because Hindi is taught as a compulsory subject. Teaching Hindi compulsorily itself is unacceptable. There is much more Hindi imposition and imperialism in these schools that public like me did not know.

Two of the outrageous Hindi imposition rules in these schools, in addition to teaching Hindi as compulsory subject, were discussed in some detail in Part I of this article. We concluded that these schools are outposts of Hindi imperialism in rural areas of non-Hindi states.

Here, in Part II, we discuss the High Court ruling within the general context of Hindi imposition.

## **6. Opposition to Hindi Imposition in Tamil Nadu**

Hindi is the reason Tamil Nadu state government refused Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas in the state because people of Tamilnadu are opposed to Hindi as India's official language. From 1967 on, Tamil Nadu voters elected to power only parties (DMK and AIADMK) that are against Hindi as India's official language. The state government under Chief Minister C. N. Annadurai (DMK party) declared in 1968 the two-language formula (or two-language policy) (Tamil and English) for all state government affairs and removed Hindi from state schools.

Tamil people opposed Hindi in schools ever since 1938 when Hindi was introduced as a subject in the state. During the massive Tamil Nadu Students Anti-Hindi Agitation of 1965, state police, police brought in from other states, central police and army shot and killed 63 unarmed civilians. Also seven young men self-immolated themselves to show their opposition to Hindi imposition. [See Volume 2 of this book series "Hindi Imposition Papers".]

This is the background under which Tamil Nadu refused to set up Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas in the state. Tamil Nadu government reflects the views of the vast majority of the people of the state.

## **7. Madras High Court Ruling**

In September 2017, Madurai Branch of the Madras High Court ordered Tamil Nadu state Government to establish Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) (Jawahar Modern Schools) in the state. Tamil Nadu state lawyer told the court that it is against Tamil Nadu's two-language formula. High Court told the state government that it should "give up its fear" that Hindi would be thrust upon students though these schools. The court told

Tamil Nadu to provide sufficient infrastructure, including land, to the schools. (Business Standard; September 11, 2017)

## **8. Discussion and a Few Unanswered Questions**

I am not a lawyer and I would think the court is interpreting the constitution and laws of the land correctly. Here are some layman's questions.

Why did not the court order the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) in Tamil Nadu not to impose Hindi through these schools? In other words, instead of asking Tamil Nadu to set aside its two-language formula, ask Indian government to set aside its three-language formula. Why should the state (any state) be subservient to India's three-language formula even when the people of Tamil Nadu had voted again and again for parties supporting the two-language policy during the past 50 years? **Do voter sentiments and sensitivities mean anything in a democracy?**

High Court is telling Tamil Nadu to "give up its fear" of Hindi imposition and allow Navodaya Vidyalayas into Tamil Nadu for the benefit of a few hundred Tamil students. Instead, why not ask Indian government to "give up its Hindi fervour" in these schools in Tamil Nadu for the benefit of a few hundred Tamil students?

We would love to hear the High Court explain the reasons behind the ruling so that non-lawyers like me can understand it.

## **9. High Court Should Order Indian Government to Use Tamil in Tamil Nadu**

Since the High Court had made this ruling about language use in the interest of potential rural students who may be admitted to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (Modern Schools), I have a few related questions.

- 1) We ask the court to order the Indian Government to print safety instructions on cooking gas cylinders in Tamil (now it is printed in Hindi and English only) for the benefit and safety of people who know neither Hindi nor English. Why should a Tamil have to learn Hindi or English to live in the land where their ancestors have been living for thousands of years?
- 2) We ask the court to order that all rail tickets be printed in Tamil (now it is English and Hindi only) for the benefit of rural people who know neither Hindi nor English.
- 3) We ask the court to order that all Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) in banks have instructions in Tamil.
- 4) We ask the court to order that all Indian government employees in Tamil Nadu know Tamil so local people can communicate with them in the local language.

As I said before, I am not a lawyer. May be some lawyer has to file a lawsuit in the high court asking the court to order the Indian government to use Tamil in Tamil Nadu.

[Back to Table of Contents](#) or Scroll down for the next chapter

## 12.

### **Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNV), Hindi Imposition and Madras High Court Ruling (India)**

#### **Part III: Final Discussion and Possible Solution**

Thanjai Nalankilli

[First Published: October 2017; Updated February 2018]

*Although this article is centered on Tamil Nadu and Tamil, the arguments and concerns raised are equally true for all non-Hindi states.*

#### **OUTLINE (Part 3 of 3)**

10. Background
11. Is it Hindi Imposition?
12. Is this Really Democracy?
13. Whose Money is it Anyway?
14. Can the Indian Government Use Our Tax Monies to Force States to Surrender Their Rights?
15. Don't Blame the Courts, Amend the Constitution

#### **10. Background**

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas are managed by Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti under the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development. As Indian government run schools, these schools have to obey and implement all rules and regulations of Indian government regarding Hindi.

Indian government's reasons for establishing these schools and Tamil Nadu government's reasons for refusing to establish these schools in Tamil Nadu are described in Part I. Part I also discussed two outrageous rules of Hindi supremacy in these schools.

#### **11. Is it Hindi Imposition?**

Some argue that no one is compelling students to study at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas; they could go to schools where there is no Hindi. We would have no objection if some Hindi enthusiasts or Hindi states open a private school in Tamil Nadu and require students to learn Hindi in exchange for top notch education. But Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (Modern Schools) are operated with both non-Hindi and Hindi taxpayer monies. If the only way to get the benefit of a well-funded, taxpayer paid schools is agreeing to learn Hindi, then that is Hindi imposition?

Let me tell you a story to reinforce my point. There were two brothers living together in the same house. The older brother had 6 children and the younger 4. Older brother is non-

vegetarian and the younger vegetarian. Because the older brother outnumbers the younger brother he made all household decisions even though the younger brother earned more money and gave more towards household expenses. Older brother cooked very nutritious and tasty non-vegetarian dishes every day but only mediocre vegetarian dishes. When the younger brother complained, the older brother told him, "no one is preventing you from eating the nutritious, tasty non-vegetarian meals; so why are you complaining? If you do not want meat, that is your problem." What should the younger brother do? May be he should leave the house and set up his own separate household.

## **12. Is this Really Democracy?**

Political parties opposing Hindi in Tamil Nadu schools have won state assembly elections ever since 1967. The current (2017) ruling party at the central government, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), got only 2% votes in Tamil Nadu in the 2014 parliamentary elections. Another party that supports Hindi in schools is the Congress Party. The combined votes these two parties got in Tamil Nadu in 2014 were just 10%. Yet the will of these two parties over-rules the will of the duly elected state government on a matter internal to the state. Is this democracy for the approximately 80 million people of Tamil Nadu? Something is wrong here.

## **13. Whose Money is it Anyway?**

Some may argue that Indian government is funding these schools and so they can dictate what languages to teach. To start with, as we mentioned earlier, it is both Hindi and non-Hindi taxpayers' money that is used, and it should not be used as an inducement to make students learn Hindi. It seems these arguments do not work because the Indian constitution and laws are such that Indian government has enormous power on how to give taxpayer monies. Indian government uses the money as carrots and sticks to force states to its pet projects violating whatever semi-federalism, state rights and devolution states have. Hindi imposition and propagation is one of those pet projects.

## **14. Can the Indian Government Use Our Tax Monies to Force States to Surrender Their Rights?**

In the opinion of this writer this ruling raises questions far beyond Hindi at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (Modern Schools). As I understand it, the Madras High Court ruling says that it is legal for the Indian government to use tax monies collected from both Hindi and non-Hindi states to force states to accept its language policy. That goes to undermine the very root of the semi-federal system of the Indian Union, state rights and devolution of power.

In case of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, Indian government says that it would set up the well-funded schools only if the schools follows its three-language policy even while it contradicts state's two language policy. Court ruled that states must accept the schools along with the accompanying three language formula (Hindi imposition) because they provide top-notch education to a few hundred rural students.

Stretching matters further, can Indian government say that it would give 1000 crore Rupees to the state government every year, if it teaches Hindi in every state school? Will the High Court force the state to do so because that is the only way it can get 1000 crore Rupees? What happened to state right to run its own schools? Will some lawyer explain the intricacies to me? Today it is Hindi in schools. Next time, can the Indian government tell the state that it would allocate 10000 crore Rupees if it allows Hindi in the state legislature? Will the court ask states to do so because the 10000 crore Rupees would benefit the people of the state? How is it different from the court telling Tamil Nadu to teach Hindi in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) because the Indian government funds would benefit the students in those schools?

Instead, why not tell the Indian government to give the state the 10000 crore Rupees without the Hindi stipulation because the 10000 crore Rupees would benefit the people? Same way, tell the Indian government to fund these Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas without attaching the stipulation that Hindi must be taught in these schools. Funds for these modern schools does not come from Hindi taxpayers alone, they come from all taxpayers; Hindi and non-Hindi taxpayers. So allocation of funds should not be attached to teaching Hindi.

It seems these arguments do not work because the Indian constitution and laws are such that Indian government has enormous power on how to give taxpayer monies. Indian government uses the money as carrots and sticks to force states to its pet projects violating whatever semi-federalism, state rights and devolution states have. Hindi imposition and propagation is one of those pet projects.

## **15. Don't Blame the Courts, Amend the Constitution**

Since courts have to interpret the constitution and laws as they exist, the only way out for non-Hindi people from Hindi imperialism is to amend the Indian constitution pertaining to language issues. Therein lies the problem. Constitution cannot be amended, will not be amended because it needs two-third majority (over 66%) in parliament and Hindi Members of Parliament (MPs) number more than one-third the total members. I can categorically say that Indian constitution can never be amended to remove Hindi as the official language of India and make all Indian languages equal.

Since the constitution cannot be amended, the only way for non-Hindi states to escape Hindi imposition is for these states to get out of the Indian Union and form their own federal union of states or separate countries, as each non-Hindi state chooses. This option is something that needs to be considered and discussed.

[Back to Table of Contents](#) or Scroll down for the next chapter

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## **Tamil Nadu Fishermen Shootings**

Sri Lankan Navy is attacking Tamil Nadu fishermen for decades; sometimes killing them, sometimes injuring them. Indian Navy, funded partially from Tamil Nadu taxes, is not protecting them.

[Back to Table of Contents](#) or Scroll down for the next chapter

## 13. **India's Broken Promises on Tamil Nadu Fishermen Shootings**

Thanjai Nalankilli

[First Published: April 2011]

Sri Lankan Navy is attacking Tamil Nadu fishermen for over two decades; sometimes killing them, sometimes injuring them. According to the Indian government, 77 Tamilnadu fishermen were killed between 1999 and April 2007. Some newspapers in Tamil Nadu put the death toll much higher. For the purposes of this article we will use India's count of 77.

There is nothing that Tamil Nadu State chief minister can do to stop the Sri Lankan Navy except to ask the Indian prime minister and defense minister to act. That is what successive chief ministers were doing. Each time the prime minister or defense minister would promise the chief minister that the attacks would be stopped. Yet attacks continue.

The earliest Indian government promise I could find was in 2000. Tamilnadu chief minister M. Karunanidhi sent a letter to the Indian prime minister on November 28, 2000 asking him to stop the killings of fishermen by the Sri Lankan navy. Prime Minister A. B. Vajpayee of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) lead National Democratic Alliance (NDA) coalition government responded on December 22, saying that he would take steps to stop the killings. Just over a month later, on January 29, 2001, Sri Lankan navy again shot and killed two fishermen. Several letters went from Tamil Nadu chief ministers to Indian prime ministers in the ensuing years including pleas to the current prime minister Dr. Manmohan Singh of the Congress lead United Progressive Alliance (UPA) coalition government. Promises were made routinely and never fulfilled. Attacks continue. The latest attack at the time of this writing (January 2011) was on January 22, 2011 in which one fisherman was killed. (Just 10 days before, on January 12, another fisherman was killed.)

Does anyone think that India could not stop the killings? All that it would take is a stern warning to Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka knows the strength of Indian Navy and there would be no more attacks on Tamil Nadu fishermen. India does not want to antagonize its southern neighbour Sri Lanka lest it would get closer to India's northern neighbours and "enemies" Pakistan and China. India is willing to sacrifice Tamil Nadu fishermen to protect its northern borders.

There is nothing Tamil Nadu can do to protect its fishermen. It does not have a navy to protect them although it pays for a navy--the Indian Navy and Coastguards. Our taxes contribute to the purchase or production of advanced navy and coastguard ships but they are yet to come to the protection of Tamil Nadu fishermen.

**Tamil Nadu Navy used to rule the neighbouring seas** during the days of Chola Empire, just a thousand years ago--from Bay of Bengal to some parts of Indonesia. But,

alas, now we are unable to protect our fishermen just a few kilometres from our coast. When will the dark days of Tamil Nadu end?

### **Related Book**

"Tamil Nadu Fishermen Killings: Sri Lanka and India" by Usha Ramanathan (E-book available free on the Internet).

<https://archive.org/details/tamil-nadu-fishermen-killings-sri-lanka-and-india>

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International Community and the Battle for Tamil Eelam (Sri Lanka)

Thoughts and Musings on the Battle for Tamil Eelam (Sri Lanka)

### **Books in Tamil**

தமிழ்நாட்டின் இரு பொற்காலங்களும், இன்றைய இருள் காலமும் (வரலாறு) - தஞ்சை நலங்கிள்ளி

The Two Golden Ages of Tamil Nadu and the Current Dark Days (History) (Tamil book) by Thanjai Nalankilli

தமிழ்நாடு இந்தி எதிர்ப்புப் போராட்டங்களும், தீக்குளிப்புகளும் - தஞ்சை நலங்கிள்ளி

Tamil Nadu Anti-Hindi Agitations and Self-Immolations (Tamil book) by Thanjai Nalankilli

END OF BOOK

[Back to Table of Contents](#)